Cellan gets a welcome cash boost - SEE PAGE 10

Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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RHOOSE A local village with big city facilities - see pages 19-21

COWBRIDGE SEE FEATURE PAGES 24-26

PICTURE BY KEITH E. MORGAN

ABOVE: A local choir flew to the Channel Islands recently for a high-profile charity concert in the Jersey Opera House. (See page 6 for full details).

SOLDIER IN 'FERAL' BRIDGEND ATTACK

TWO men, one of them a serving soldier, took part in "feral behaviour" when an affray broke out in Bridgend, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court, *writes AJ SICLUNA.*

Mark Paine, who was attacked, suffered a broken nose and rib and concussion, and was found to be in shock at the scene, said prosecutor Stuart McLeese.

Craig Davies (26), a private with the Royal Welch Regiment, of Cefn Glas, Bridgend, was sentenced to a community order for 18 months, made subject to a supervision order for 18 months, and directed to carry out 99 hours of unpaid work and pay costs of £250.

Mason Tantrum (22) of Georgian Way, Brackla, was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to pay costs of £250.

Both men admitted a charge of affray before Bridgend magistrates and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Mr McLeese said Mr Paine was about to get a taxi home near Bridgend railway station, when the affray broke out.

"At no time did he want to get involved," said Mr McLeese.

The incident was captured on CCTV and lasted three to four minutes.

As he watched it, Recorder Peter Rauch QC said: "This was quite feral behaviour."

When arrested, Tantrum said: "I was only trying to break the fighting up."

Davies was aggressive to the police and said: "Yes, I admit I punched a guy."

He added: "The boy who had a slap by me is scum."

Tantrum said he was shocked by his actions.

Rhodri Chudleigh, for Davies, said: "He concedes he didn't act in self defence. Earlier, there had been an incident in a club lavatory."

Byron Broadstock, for Tantrum, said he didn't attempt to justify his behaviour: "The explanation is simple – alcohol."

The Recorder said the incident had been persistent, and was particularly unpleasant. He said it must have terrified people who witnessed it.

"It was pretty appalling, atrocious behaviour," he added.

RNLI save yacht and injured man in high seas rescue

by PHILIP IRWIN

A YACHTSMAN drifting towards rocks in high seas – and suffering from a broken wrist – was saved by prompt action from Porthcawl RNLI

On the evening of Saturday, June 15, Porthcawl RNLI Atlantic 85 Lifeboat *Rose of the Shires* was launched to reports of a 30-foot steel-hulled sailing yacht in difficulty off Newton, Porthcawl.

The yacht was in danger of drifting onto the rocky point in the rough sea and high winds.

The RNLI Lifeboat launched at 8.30pm with four volunteer crew on board. Once they reached the yacht, the helmsman, Christopher Missen, put crewmen Joe Missen and Alex Denny aboard to assess the condition of the yachtsman and the boat.

Joe reported that the yachtsman was exhausted, and had become overwhelmed by the conditions he was sailing in.

They made the decision to move the yachtsman to the safety of the lifeboat.

Examining the yacht, the RNLI crewmen found that the boat had taken on a lot of water and was in danger of sinking, so they used their salvage pump to pump out the water, while the lifeboat towed the yacht into the safety of the Porthcawl pier.

When in the shelter of the pier, the Porthcawl D Class lifeboat was also launched to assist in pumping the water, and the yachtsman was taken ashore.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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Change in the Arctic is going to make a difference everywhere

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.

Parliamentary Whips have myriad functions but mainly they are the business managers of the political parties.

They assess the need for the number of MPs in the Commons for each debate and vote. Time away from the Commons is organised by party whips by 'pairing'. MPs from government and opposition are paired for absence, ensuring they do not alter the outcome of votes.

In the week that Britain basked in sunshine and high temperatures, I was paired for a study tour of the High North with another MP and representatives of the Foreign office, the Ministry of Defence and two think tanks.

The tour was organised by the Norwegian Embassy to provide insight and understanding of the impact of global warming and the opening of the Arctic Sea route.

Before you read on, look at a map of the globe from the perspective of the Arctic Ocean; the world looks very different. Like all regions it has a political and economic forum where members can discuss, share and agree common priorities and in this emerging environment, change science into politics and policies.

The Arctic Council members are Russia, China, Canada, Greenland, Finland, Sweden, Iceland and the US. So important are the meetings of the council that observer status has been granted to 32 states and organisations, including the UK.

This year, the council signed an agreement on marine oil pollution preparedness and response, and set out priorities for the next two years for improving economic and social conditions, acting on climate change and protecting the arctic environment.

On our first day, Norway's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs set the problems into perspective.

Melting of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean has been increasing over the last six years. The ice cap which once covered an area the size of the EU is shrinking fast.

The Arctic Ocean may well be ice free faster than climate models have projected; possibly within the next decade. The ice is shrinking and so is its depth and volume.

Ships can operate if the ice is thinner. Last summer's ice was more slush than ice. Most of the increased shipping was carrying petroleum.

The UK purchases a major part of its gas supply from Norway with underwater pipes carrying secure supplies into three east coast sites. Coal, gas and oil are the major sources of the world's energy sources and will continue to be so for some time as renewables develop. With 22 per cent of the world's untapped oil located in the Arctic development is inevitable.

Protecting this region is important to us all. The effect of an oil spill here is complex; one close to the ice edge would impact on the nursery for biological reproduction that would resonate around the world.

Sustainable development of the Arctic is not just about economic activity, but must include social development, environment and climate concerns.

To fully understand the issues we travelled to Svalbard, the most northerly inhabited island in the Arctic. The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), is a centre for higher education and research, located in Longyearbyen, offering courses at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate level in Arctic biology, Arctic geology, Arctic geophysics and Arctic technology.

Understanding the science of the Arctic is imperative to understanding climate change and the impact of change and development in the region for wildlife and mankind.

Arctic species have nowhere north to go, food is limited and species are interdependent. Wildlife here faced few diseases and parasites, all of which is changing.

Reindeer and ptarmigan are seen grazing in the streets of Longyearbyen where rain is falling rather than snow, forming an ice layer on top of their food supply. Reindeer are moving north as they need to eat constantly and cannot survive without regular food supplies.

This has brought increased movements in herds where previously they had moved singly or in pairs. The ptarmigan population has decreased because of the ice layer over their food source. The increased reindeer and ptarmigan deaths brought a growth in arctic foxes.

The warmer seas have reduced the availability of polar cod, with a resulting decline of 85/90 per cent of hooded and 50 per cent of harp seals.

Reduction in ice cover and decline in seal population has reduced the habitat and food available for polar bears and their young. There are estimated to be 20,000 polar bears worldwide, they are expected to be wiped out in two thirds of their range in this century.

Svalbard is also exploring future solutions. UNIS has had a carbon capture and storage research centre since 2007, with 120 researchers looking at injecting Co2 into the sandstone layers under the permafrost.

The most frightening fact I heard was while at Longyearbyen airport waiting for a cancelled flight. A researcher was heading north to work on the decline of Glaucus Gulls. PCBs and DDT carried north by winds 30 years ago and captured in the ice are being released by the melting and impacting on the birds' ability to reproduce.

The High North and the changes taking place there are impacting on every aspect of our lives in the UK. Our access to, and the price of, oil and gas, minerals for manufacturing, food from the sea, and the change to the world's ecology which could challenge human survival all stem from here.

Brackla pupils donate surplus toys to Ty Hafan

Brackla Primary School pupils with their donations for Ty Hafan.

TY HAFAN hospice is appealing for unwanted items such as clothes, toys, bric a brac, CDs and DVDs to replenish its charity shops.

Pupils at Brackla Primary School, Bridgend, responded by donating enough toys to fill the window display at the shop in the Rhiw shopping centre.

Catherine Griffiths, retail operations manager at Ty Hafan, said: "We are thrilled that pupils of Brackla Primary School are helping with our stock appeal. We'd love to see more schools get involved, as it will make such a difference to the children and families supported by Ty Hafan."

Income from all 23 of Ty Hafan's shops make a valuable contribution towards providing comfort, care and specialist support to hundreds of life-limited children, young people and their families from across Wales.

Local film-maker's latest production

THE June meeting of Sker WI was held recently at St David's Church Hall, Nottage, and president Nora Williams welcomed the members.

The afternoon tea at the Masonic Home to celebrate the Queen's Coronation was enjoyed by all, with background music from the 1950s. Many dressed for the occasion and brought out their 'tiaras'.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Anthony Hontoir, who gave a talk on 'Ghosts'. Mr Hontoir has been making films for over 25 years and showed how the different cameras have changed over the years.

He has been doing historical films – one about Sker House and has made a DVD on 'Ghosts in Glamorgan'.

Sker house itself was nearly lost in the 1990s – luckily the owners received funding and started to restore the house in 1999, some of the builders being local people. The building had to be made secure with scaffolding and in rebuilding used as much of the original stone as possible.

Mr Hontoir filmed the different stages of the build and even found his camera still running on one occasion when it was actually turned off.

In the Great Hall on the first floor there was a hidden door. The house was finally completed in 2004. It was a very interesting talk.

There is a mystery tour on July 15 and the summer fayre is on July 19.

The next meeting is on July 11 when the speaker will be Mr Karl-James Langford, talking on 'Lost Prehistoric Landscapes'. Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

Ann Vipond

Quiz league

HERE are this week's teasers:

1. Who discovered oxygen?

2. In which Dickens novel are the characters Sampson Brass, Mr and Mrs Nubbles and Codlin and Short?

3. Which future world heavyweight boxing champion's first professional fight as an 18-year-old was a first round knock-out against Hector Mercedes in 1985?

4. Which company produces the men's fragrance 'Kouros' and 'Jazz'?

A Rudge

Answers:
1. Joseph Priestly.
2. The Old Curiosity Shop.
3. Mike Tyson.
4. Yves St Laurent.

The Porthcawl U3A are treated to 'wonderful travelogue'

PORTHCAWL U3A members were treated to a wonderful travelogue of pictures and music by Mr Brian Haberfield, their speaker for June.

Since retiring, he and his wife Audrey have specialised in producing and directing audio visual presentations of the many interesting places they have visited, and like the BBC documentaries, they always seem to have sunny days for taking pictures.

First was 'The Regal Coast', a film showing the many beauty spots along the south Wales coast in six second shots followed by Brian's explanation on the importance of combining the two basic elements of sound and vision with varying amounts of commentary being a personal choice.

A still life film called 'Floral Fantasia' showing brilliant arrays of flowers and their dazzling colours in macro was followed by possibly Wales's oldest recorded garden, Aberglasney, Carmarthenshire.

Lewis Glyn Cothi an itinerant poet in 1471 wrote comparing the garden with that of the first gardener, Adam.

Commandeered during World War Two for US D Day troops, the whole Aberglasney estate was sold in 1955.

The present 10-acre walled gardens and house opened to the public in 1999 after many years of restoration.

'Wells and Glastonbury' with commentary by Brian completed this very enjoyable and unusual illustrated talk. Please ring Clive 01656 783491 for further details on U3A talks or visits.

Gary Victor

Writers' group issues appeal

THE long established Scriveners writers' group is seeking new members.

It aims to provide constructive criticism, help, advice and guidance to its membership of aspiring and published writers.

Members meet every other Wednesday evening, 8pm at the Royal Exchange, Brynmawr, (June 19, July 3, July 17).

Prospective members may submit work and attend three meetings before joining.

For more information please contact Meg Gurney, tel: 01495 753629.

You can read your GEM online -
bridgend-today.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 27)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
20 Thur	03.41	8.4	16.26	8.6
21 Fri	04.52	8.8	17.25	9.1
22 Sat	05.51	9.3	18.18	9.6
23 Sun	06.49	9.7	19.13	10.1
24 Mon	07.39	10.1	20.05	10.3
25 Tues	08.31	10.2	20.55	10.4
26 Wed	09.19	10.1	21.44	10.3
27 Thur	10.07	9.8	22.22	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Jail for leisure centre burglar

A BURGLAR who hired a taxi to take him to a house before breaking in has been jailed at Cardiff County Court.

Rhys Carter, 40, of Coity Road, Bridgend, was sent to prison for a total of 124 weeks and six days.

He had admitted charges of burglary and theft and was also in breach of a community order for possessing a class A drug.

Judge Eleri Rees said he had an appalling record and was a menace as far as dishonesty was concerned.

She said the burglary he was involved in "caused great trauma and untold misery".

Prosecutor David Pugh said Carter stole a handbag belonging to a clerical worker employed at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

She immediately stopped her credit card but not before £500 had been withdrawn. Carter had been spotted on a CCTV in the hospital.

Three days later, said Mr Pugh, he went to Bridgend Recreation Centre and broke into a locker.

Within an hour, he had broken into a house in Badger's Brook, Brackla.

He went to the premises, said Mr Pugh, by taxi.

He had obtained the address from a driving licence he had stolen, and also had the house keys.

Later, Carter took the police to an area of woodland where the keys were recovered.

In a statement, the occupier, Shaun Moleno, said at the time of the burglary, his partner had been pregnant and was deeply distressed and was taken to hospital.

A laptop which Carter stole contained irreplaceable personal photographs.

He was said to have previous convictions for burglary, stealing from the Western Leisure Centre, Cardiff, and from another leisure centre.

He also had convictions for burgling houses in Cowbridge and Tondu.

His counsel, Meirion Davies, said he understood the sentence he was looking at and he pointed out that once, Carter had gone 10 years without committing a burglary. All his offending, he said, was unsophisticated.

Obviously, said the Judge, he deliberately targeted lockers at leisure centres to take house keys.

Sarn man grew cannabis to pay for his wedding

DOZENS of cannabis plants spotted by the police had a potential yield with a street value of up to £55,700, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Aaron Mallon (28), unemployed, of Jubilee Crescent, Sarn, intended selling half the crop to fund his forthcoming wedding, said prosecutor Joanna James.

Mallon had been convicted by Bridgend magistrates of producing cannabis and was committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was jailed for one year.

Judge Rhys Rowlands said: "You pleaded guilty at the first realistic opportunity. You were seeking to make money of a fairly significant amount, and there was some commercial element to it."

Miss James said that on November 2, the police went to Mallon's address on a totally unrelated matter.

While searching the premises, they found 44 cannabis plants, which Mallon confirmed were his.

On his mobile phone were text messages indicating further plants were being produced by him at another address. The police later found nine of them, along with a set of scales and a number of cannabis plant cuttings.

Rhodri Chudleigh said: "He fully accepts his position. Plainly, he was going to supply to associates, and wanted money for his wedding because he was in financial difficulties."

He disputed the potential value of the crop and said it was more like £3,250.

He said it was his first attempt at growing cannabis, and it was unsophisticated.

"It was not being grown in ideal conditions," he said.

Local opticians raises cash for Cancer Research

ABOVE: Pictured left to right: Nic Edwards, store manager; Collette McClymont, Anja McClymont and Mairwen Chess, optical assistants.

STAFF at a Bridgend opticians have raised more than £520 in the fight to beat cancer after taking part in the local 5k Race for Life.

Store manager Nic Edwards and her colleagues Collette McClymont, Anja McClymont and Mairwen Chess, took part in the race, which forms part of the UK's largest women-only fundraising event.

Nic said: "Sadly, cancer is something that affects far too many people we know and love, and so we were all really keen to take part and raise money for Cancer Research UK.

"In the lead up to the event, we all made time to go on training runs after work to make sure we were in good shape for the race and didn't let anybody down.

"We have taken part in this event before, but this is the most we have ever raised and would like to thank everybody – family, friends, colleagues and customers – who sponsored us for the event. We are delighted to have raised so much money for a vital cause."

To donate any further money for Race for Life please call in to the Specsavers store on Adare Street, Bridgend.

Arts festival

EWENNY Arts Festival continues at Ewenny Priory Church today (June 20) at 6.30pm.

Caroline Greenwood Harp Ensemble performs with pupils from St David's Church in Wales Primary School, Colwinston.

On Friday, June 21, at 6.30pm, Bridgend County Junior Youth Band, Bridgend County Saxophone Brass, Bridgend County Symphonic Brass.

Tickets £5 available from the schools, Ewenny Pottery (01656 653020, Helen (01656 667047) or Mari (01656 664105).

Model railway

THE Porthcawl Railway Club has organised a model railway show at the HiTide Inn, Mackworth Street, Porthcawl, CF36 5BT, on Sunday, June 23, from 10.30am-4pm, with 11 working model railway layouts on show.

Most are local club layouts, a model engineering display, with local model traders also represented.

Parking is available with a level, no steps entry route. Entry £2 for adults, £1 for children and senior citizens.

Contact Bernard Townsend 01656 725091 for more details.

Two years' jail for burglar

A BURGLAR who stole a laptop computer and a docking station told the police he also intended to take a large television, but it wouldn't fit into his holdall.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Craig Bennett (31) of Port Road, Barry, was jailed for two years.

Judge Daniel Williams told Bennett: "You were part of a team, and you made full admissions. As a result of your crime, the occupier is insecure in his own home."

Bennett had been convicted by Cardiff Magistrates of a charge of burglary, and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Rhys Evans said he carried out the burglary on April 22 at the Ferry Lane, Penarth, home of Neil Tompkins.

In addition to the theft, damage of £360 was caused.

Police later went to an address in Penarth and recovered the stolen property. Bennett immediately said: "I did it, no-one else was involved."

He said he had used a tool to prise open a window, and intended to take an expensive television, but it wouldn't fit into his holdall.

Bennett, the court heard, had convictions for 21 offences, 14 for dishonesty.

His solicitor, Thomas Trove, said: "He expresses his full regret. Fortunately, property was recovered. One other individual was present, but he didn't play a major role.

"Bennett was used by others, and has been addicted to heroin," he said.

Jail for man who tried to sell drugs in Porthcawl club

ACTION by an alert member of the door staff at a Porthcawl club has resulted in a drugs dealer being jailed for a year at Cardiff Crown Court.

Jonathon Dyment (31) of Mackworth Road, Porthcawl, admitted possessing mephadrone with intent to supply, and possessing cocaine.

Judge Stephen Hopkins said: "It is accepted you were deliberately going into that club intending to supply drugs."

Prosecutor Gareth James said that at 1am on March 30, Dyment was about to go into Streets Nightclub, Porthcawl, when a member of staff told him he was going to be searched.

"He tried to run off, but was grabbed and taken into an office."

He produced seven bags of mephadrone, worth £140.

He also had on him two mobile phones and £80 in cash.

His home was searched and police found another mobile phone, a small quantity of cocaine and more mephadrone worth £320.

One mobile phone, said Mr James, contained text messages indicating he had been dealing in drugs.

He was said to have a previous conviction for supplying cocaine.

His barrister, Byron Broadstock, said: "The amounts involved were very modest – it was small scale dealing. He became addicted to cocaine at a young age, and he has braced himself for prison."

In the dock, Dyment was handcuffed to two security officers.

The judge said this was because he was "something of an escapologist and with double joints on his hands, could slip out of handcuffs."

ASH welcomes smoke-free playground

BRIDGEND has taken the bold step of banning smoking in their playgrounds to protect children from the harm of second hand smoke and the perception that smoking is a harmless activity.

The official launch took place on Friday, June 14, at Wordsworth Avenue Play Area, Cefn Glas, with schoolchildren from Cefn Glas Infants School, who have helped campaign for smoke-free play areas and designed their own signs.

The children had a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' while the voluntary code was formally launched.

A survey by Yougov in 2013 for ASH Wales revealed that 77 per cent of Welsh adults now believe that smoking should be banned in areas where children play.

Currently 11 out of 22 local authorities have smoke-free playgrounds in their area – this is due to expand to 17 by the end of 2013.

Elen de Lacy, chief executive of public health charity Action on Smoking and Health in Wales, welcomed the launch of the smoke-free playground initiative in Bridgend and praised the partnership working of all the agencies involved.

"It is excellent news that playgrounds across Bridgend will now be safer environments for children as a result of this decision to make play areas smoke-free."

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AUSTEN FANS SEE A MASTERMIND CROWNED IN COMPETITION FINAL

ABOVE: Marj Dixon is crowned Bridgend County Borough's Pride and Prejudice Mastermind

Supporters at the event enjoy high tea

Period performances were given by volunteers alongside library staff.

BOOK lovers were out in force at the final of Bridgend library and information service's *Pride and Prejudice* Mastermind competition at Bryngarw House and Country Park.

It featured branch champions from preliminary rounds held at Bridgend, Maesteg, Porthcawl and Pyle libraries.

Visitors were also entertained with period performances by volunteers Joanne Hopkins and Louise Apperley, alongside library staff, and songs and instrumental music from Jane Austen's time, performed by soprano Shoshana Pavett with south Wales-based piano trio, Opus 8.

The winner of the tense finale was Bridgend Library's Marj Dixon, who said: "I'm delighted to have been crowned Bridgend county borough's *Pride and Prejudice* Mastermind. It was a really fun event and Marion, Neville and Elaine were all fantastic competitors.

"I would like to thank Bridgend library and information service for coming up with such a marvellous way of celebrating *Pride and Prejudice*.

"The atmosphere they created with period music, dancing and performances felt really authentic, and the high tea topped it all off perfectly."

The other finalists were Marion Rogers, Neville Granvile and Elaine Newan, representing Maesteg, Pyle and Porthcawl libraries respectively.

There were period songs and music by soprano Shoshana Pavett with Opus 8

REV BEV IS A FIRST FOR NEW PARISH

THE Rev Bev Reaney knew when she used to sneak off from school to go to church that she would one day become a priest.

Back when Bev was a girl, women weren't being ordained into the priesthood but, even as a 10-year-old, she was convinced that was what she would be one day.

This week she was given her own parishes as the priest-in-charge of the parishes of Glyncorrwg and Upper Afan Valley and also Caerau St Cynfelin.

She will serve at St Cynfelin church and also St John the Baptist. Bev, 54, succeeds Rev Cyril Laskey in Glyncorrwg and Rev Keith Andrews in Caerau – both of whom have retired.

It is a double first for both parishes, as it is the first time that they have been brought together, and it is the first time that either has had a female priest.

"They might have had a priest with a ponytail back in the day when men had long hair, but they won't have had a pony-tailed priest that wears sparkly nail varnish like I do!" said Bev.

Bev won't have far to travel, as she is currently curate at the neighbouring parish of Llangynwyd with Maesteg. And keeping it in the family, her husband Chris is priest-in-charge of the next parish of Troedrhiwgarth.

Rev Bev Reaney

Originally from Clipstone, a village in the middle of Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, Bev spent most her working career as a local government IT trainer for Rhondda Cynon Taf, although she always played an active role in the church.

After rules were changed to allow women to be ordained, Bev was ordained as a deacon in 2003, working as a non-stipendiary minister for eight years, first in Llanharry and then Porth.

Two years ago she ditched her day job and switched to working full time in the church as the curate in Maesteg.

"I'm really looking forward to the challenge of working with these two parishes and bringing them together. Some things will be kept separate but it does give us the opportunity to pool resources for some activities," said Bev.

"Glyncorrwg already has a bus that goes around the neighbouring villages to bring in parishioners and we could look at using the bus to help parishioners join together for some special events.

"Becoming a priest was something that I knew I was always going to do from the days when I used to sneak off from school to go to church as a 10-year-old."

Bev was licensed by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne, at a special service at St Cynfelin in Caerau on Monday, June 10.

Bishop David said: "Bev is hard-working, conscientious and comes with many tried and tested gifts: pastoral, liturgical, spiritual and hospitable.

"All that is enriched by being a clergy spouse: as I've said before, clergy spouses, particularly wives deserve a special place in heaven!

"Ministry is not a one person band, but Bev is the conductor of an orchestra in which you all have an indispensible part."

Rotary organisation takes local pupils on trip out west

EVERY year, the Rotary Organisation throughout Britain and Ireland, together with the 'KidsOut' charity takes more than 25,000 children on a great day out.

On Wednesday, June 12, 120 children from Pencoed, Pyle, Garth, Plasnewydd, Llangynyd and Blaencaerau primary schools visited the Gower Heritage Centre.

Members of the Rotary Clubs of Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl attended, along with teachers and helpers from the schools on what was a wonderful day.

The children watch a demonstration by a blacksmith at the Gower Heritage Centre.

In addition to seeing the various animals at the park and learning about life in the past, the children tried their hands at pottery and wool spinning, and were given an excellent demonstration by a traditional blacksmith.

The day was rounded off by the customary duck race on the stream, with prizes for the first three over the finish line.

Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

Mr Rory McLaggan – **Old Factory Building, Derllwyn Road, Tondu** – programme of works to various trees within site.
Emmaus South Wales – **Land at Tremains Road, Bridgend** – four new non-illuminated fascia signs.
Bank Machine Ltd – **Spar Stores, Unit 2B, Quarella Road, Bridgend** – the retention of illuminated sign.
Glamorgan Holiday Hotel – **The Square, Porthcawl** – two post mounted v-shaped signs to front of property.
Coychurch Higher CC – **Field at junction B4280, High Street, Heol y Cyw** – conversion of parcel of land for use as a community garden.
Mr M Ali – **60 Vale View, Nantymoel** – outline application for new dwelling (renewal of lapsed approval P/09/302/OUT.
BCBC Children's Directorate – **Land off Dimbath Avenue, Blackmill** – Flying Start Childcare facility with co-located multi-agency base.
Mr Peter Johns – **Court Garage, Court Colman Street, Nantymoel** – demolish and rebuild fire damaged section of commercial garage workshops.
Mr K Russell – **Land rear Darren House, High Street, Heol y Cyw** – relax condition to allow development to commence 10 years from outline consent (i.e. 04/01/2019).
Wilkinsons Hardware Store – **27 Llynfi Road, Maesteg** – construct additional section of security fence to existing escape stair.
Mrs J Davies – **11 Maesglas, Bettws** – single storey extension to provide shower room.
Mr B R Bradley – **5 Garth Street, Kenfig Hill** – first floor extension to rear to provide lift shaft and WC.
Mr J Jones – **14 Heol Maendy, Sarn** – new hardstanding and ramped access plus associated works.
Mr Robert Lodge – **2 Tremains Road, Bridgend** – single storey rear extension to provide en-suite shower room with new external ramped access.
Miss Victoria Bowring – **65A Mary Street, Porthcawl** – change of use from residential to use as a photography studio and business.
Persimmon Homes East Wales – **Plot 80, Castle Heights, Parc Derwen, Coity** – alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory.
Mr M R Walker – **15 Heol Elfed, Maesteg** – single storey extension to provide bedroom and en-suite shower room and ramped access.
Mr C Thomas – **Llwynon, Heol Byeastwood, Coity** – two storey granny annexe, affecting footpath 12 Coity.
Mr Paul Donovan – **9 Merlin Close, Porthcawl** – demolish existing garage and construct integral garage with bedroom over and erect two storey rear extension.
Bank Machine Ltd – **Spar Stores Unit, 2B Quarella Road, Bridgend** – the retention of an automated teller machine.
Ms Beverley Mills – **12 Brookland Terrace, Nantymoel** – balcony and screen to rear of property.
Mr Dennis Murphy – **Highfields, Heol yr Ynys, Bridgend** – Ground and first floor extension to rear and relocate garage.
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg – **Glanrhyd Hospital, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend** – New clinical development (low secure mental health unit) including associated building, engineering operations and landscaping.
Mr P Caddy – **6 St Leonards Road, Bridgend** – Extend the rear ground floor utility room block to first floor and increase the bedroom size above the kitchen.
Mrs I Edwards – **Land at Heol Felyn Fach, Tondu** – Relax time condition on P/08/26/FUL (two two-bed flats) to extend the permission for a further five years.
Mr Stephen J Rudd – **The Old School House, School Terrace, North Cornelly** – en-suite bathroom to first floor bedroom cover car port.
Neath Port Talbot CBC – **Kenfig Hill Industrial Estate, Margam** – wind turbine (103 metres to tip) together with associated works.
Neath Port Talbot CBC – **Morfa landfill site, Port Talbot Works** – proposed movement of mixed tyre fluff and demolition waste within Morfa landfill site.
Mrs S Thomas and Mrs K Paley – **The Dell, Church Road/Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend** – demolish existing dwelling and construct four detached dwellings with external works and road improvements.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Left to right: PCSOs Julie Banks, Richard Hopkins, Richard Couch, Huw Tyler, Nerys Lloyd, Richard Mathews with pupils at Pil Primary School

Mynydd Cynffig Junior

PUPIL of the week: Congratulations to the following pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Erin Evans – class 1, Luke Hamer – class 2, Ellie Bevan – class 3, Joshua Coombes – class 4, Caitlan Thomas – class 5, Olivia Magness – class 6 and Taryn Matthews - class 7. The headteacher's award went to Thomas Knapp – class 4.

Special lunch: Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour, including politeness to both staff and fellow pupils during lunchtimes last week: Keiron Furguson, Owain Pugh, Amber Tidmarsh, Ieuan Everett, Codi Pritcahrd, Emily Walters, Paige Cochrane, Olivia Magness, Connor John, Rhys Perry and Thomas Rees.

Memorial Sevens: The 36th Ian Thomas Memorial Seven-a-Side Rugby Tournament took place at the Cae Gof Fields, Cefn Cribwr last Wednesday.

Two squads of 10 players represented the school in this prestigious event. The A team qualified for the semi-finals of the cup as winners of pool one, with four wins out of four in the group stages.

The B team qualified for the semi-finals of Plate competition with two wins out of four in pool two.

In the Plate semi-finals, the B team beat Nottage B before losing the final to Cefn Cribwr A, who scored a try with the last move of the match.

The A played Pil A in the final, following a win over Nottage A.

In an exciting match, the school triumphed by 20–10 to lift the trophy.

Year-5 pupil, Jack Davies from class 6, was nominated as 'player of the tournament' by WRU development officer Mike Williams, who also officiated a number of the games during the day.

The following pupils took part and were congratulated on their excellent behaviour as well as their rugby skills: A squad: Ben Evans (captain), Rhys Perry, Liam Evans, Ryan Evans, Thomas Rees, Alex Underhill, Callum Hill, Jack Davies, Oliver Roberts and Kieran Thomas.

B squad: Todd Hind (captain), George Buckley, Codi Pritchard, Connor John, Cai Williams, Mark Underhill, Joseph Hardwicke, Dafydd Jones, Ewan Orchard and Thomas Llewellyn.

Swimming gala: The school swimming team took part in the heats of the Bridgend schools swimming competition at Pyle Pool. The year 3/4 team finished in second place while the year 5/6 team finished in fourth place overall.

There were some excellent swims by Emily Cox, Mia Thomas, Ewan Flower, Ben Dale, Leah Knott, Chloe Knott, Jack Davies and George Buckley, who finished either first or second in their individual events.

Once the school have received the official results, the pupils will be notified as to whether they have qualified for the Bridgend schools finals in Ynysawdre Swimming Pool on July 14. Congratulations to all 26 pupils who took part.

Inter-school basketball and rounders: Matches were recently played against Cornelli Primary.

The basketball A team produced an excellent performance to win by 54-32. The B team were also impressive, winning by 24-2.

There were also wins for both rounders teams; the A team by 7-4, and the B team by 9-8. Well done to all who took part.

Choir: The school year 5 and 6 choir will be performing a Llys Ton Residential Home, Waunbant Road, Kenfig Hill, on June 25 at 11am. Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend this performance, which will last for approximately half an hour.

Kenfig Hill Wellbeing Centre

KENFIG Hill Festival 'Mardi Gras' week: Mental Health Matters presents 'Hawaiian Wellbeing Day' with fun, games and food, courtesy of Tesco champions at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on Wednesday, June 26 from 2pm-4pm.

It will be a great social afternoon when everyone is welcome to go and join in the activities and enjoy themselves in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Shout

KENFIG Hill Shout are holding their next meeting on Tuesday, June 25 in Theo's Charity Shop, Kenfig Hill from 2pm-4pm.

The speaker on this occasion will be from the local Fire Service. For further information about the activities of Kenfig Hill Shout, telephone Stan Runble on 01656 741203.

Community Fit Club

FIT Club is a 'free, fun community exercise session' that suits all abilities and ages.

Each class is run by a trained professional fitness instructor.

Whether you exercise regularly, are in need of a change of routine or maybe thinking of taking part in exercise for the first time, then go along and get active.

Fit Club is held every Wednesday evening at Cynfig Comprehensive School, 6pm.

For further details, telephone Wayne Robbins on 07540 052036.

Pil Primary School

THE Local Neighbourhood Policing Team recently went to Pil Primary School and played two games of five-a-side football, both of which were particularly testing, as the weather was glorious.

Although all the pupils were supporting them, the school narrowly lost to the Police team. This was hardly surprising when you had the six foot four giant with the longest legs on the field, PCSO Huw Tyler, playing up front, although one of the pupils did a smart move during the game by running through them.

PCSO Richard Couch kept goal, having recovered from the broken ankle he received the last time he played against a school side. The pupils were complaining that it wasn't fair as he filled up too much of the goal!

However, joking aside, with PCSOs Julie Banks (the latest recruit to join the Police team), Richard Hopkins, Richard Mathews and Nerys Lloyd also joining in the fun, it was a really enjoyable morning for both pupils and the Police.

Man of the match awards went to Stephan Flood and Gethin Jones. It was really good to see the interaction between the NPT and the children.

Festival Week and Fun Day

THE Festival Week and fun day has so much to offer this year, with events on every day from Saturday, June 22, and the fun day on Saturday, June 28, ending with a community thanksgiving service on Sunday, June 19.

There will be many stands from such organisations as the Pisgah Ladies Fellowship, Pyle Community Council, The Talbot Community Centre, The Talbot Craft Club, KPC Youth, The ATC (Kenfig Hill Sqn), Shout, Bethel Community Church, Bridgend Carers Centre, the Police and many others.

The Ogmore Valley Silver Band will play throughout the afternoon in the tea tent, there will also be children's rides, bouncy castles, an army climbing wall, a hoopla stall, rifle range, and a water slide.

On the field will be displays by the Varsity Street Dancers, Tang So Do (martial arts), 'Cynffig Flyers' cheerleaders, Neath Army Cadet band, a vintage car show (approximately 30 cars), hawk and falconry display and a mini rugby tournament.

The Festival Queen fun day parade starts at 12 noon, after which all the stalls and the arena events will be in full swing from 1pm till late.

There will also be a hog roast from 6pm to 8pm.

For a great afternoons entertainment why not go along to the Kenfig Hill and Pyle Community Festival Week fun day.

For further details, telephone Gina Hooper on 01656 895504 or 07752 366241.

COMMUNITY NEWS from **KENFIG HILL AND PYLE**

by ***Richard Sims***

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E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Speaker steps into the breach

PENLLYN and District WI's May craft evening saw members busily working on a variety of items for the Glamorgan WI Show in July, and many items have already been completed ahead of time.

Our monthly members' meeting was held on June 4, when members and visitors were welcomed to the meeting by the president, Novello Peters, who introduced the speaker.

Unfortunately, our planned speaker had cancelled, so Richard Marks kindly stepped into the breach and gave a fascinating and educational talk on conservation in the Vale.

He spoke mainly about the Wildlife Trust's reserve situated a mile and a half east of St Bride's Major, and touched on other localities, such as the Heritage Coast and Merthyr Mawr.

He guided us through the seasons, with stunning slides of plants, trees, fungi, birds and their nests, animals, insects and butterflies, as well as pictures of royalty and celebrities who had visited the reserve.

He had captured some superb night-time photographs. The speaker was thanked by vice-president, Rhiannon Cory.

There will be a fruit-picking evening at Hendrewennol (6.30pm on June 25), to be followed by a meal at the Aubrey Arms.

Members were reminded to buy tickets for December's carol concert in St David's Hall. Several members have volunteered to sing in the choir. Others put their names forward for various walks organised by the Federation as part of the '90 Mile Walk.'

Marjorie Nash gave her delegate's report on the spring council meeting, which was held in Porthcawl on April 29.

The next meeting will be on July 2 at 7.30pm in the village hall, with speaker Melanie Wager, talking about 'Kidney Wales Charity.'

New members are always warmly welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in every month (except August), at 7.30pm in Penllyn Village Hall.

For further information, contact 01656 674191 or 01656 647115.

MN

Laleston's 'rubbish day' is changed

LALESTON'S regular refuse and recycling collection day is changing from a Thursday to a Tuesday.

The change of collection day will begin on Tuesday, June 25.

Residents are reminded to put their bags and boxes out by 7am on collection day, especially as pick-up times could vary from those they are used to.

Role of 'Blood Bikes' charity is explained

PENCOED WI NEWS

WE had a change of speaker at our June meeting.

Instead of a talk about Clarice Cliff, we had Julia from the charity 'Blood Bikes'.

I know most of you will be thinking 'who' or 'what' because that was my initial reaction (I was hoping for a heavy rock band).

Blood Bikes is a charity set up in 2011 and they provide an out of hours service to the NHS when blood has to be transported urgently.

They have a fleet of six motorbikes and save the NHS the cost of using taxis, ambulances or police cars.

All the bikers are volunteers. They cover a wide area and they have been used by Bro Morgannwg Health authority. Julia's talk was very interesting.

Our autumn fayre on October 19 will be in aid of the Blood Bikes charity.

Our speaker on July 9 will be Helen Williams, speaking about the 'Lighter side of Shopping'.

Visitors are always welcom. We meet at Pencoed Welfare Hall on the second Tuesday of the month from 1.45pm to 4pm.

For further information please ring Val on 01656 862181 or Pat on 01656 860289.

VW

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WELSH CHOIR TAKES JERSEY BY SONG!

ABOVE: The Official Photograph of the Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir at the Opera House, Jersey.

Report and photos by KEITH E MORGAN

THE 100-plus strong party of Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice choristers and supporters arrived in style at Jersey International Airport in two charter jets.

The town of St Helier was soon ringing with the melodious voices of the Welsh visitors, as they took advantage of the beautiful weather to enjoy the many and marvellous sites of the island of Jersey.

The main concert was in the Opera House on Saturday, June 1. However, on the Friday evening, the management of the Merton Hotel had arranged for an impromptu performance by the choir.

This was well supported by residents and guests alike and included an introduction to the 'Barbara Shop', a group of three young ladies, led by Georgia Mae Bishop and including Elli Edmunds and Harriet Eaves.

Those old enough to remember would have thought they were listening to the Andrew Sisters.

As well as bringing a touch of Wales to Jersey, the choir also brought home one of Jersey's daughters. The celebrated mezzo-soprano Georgia Mae Bishop from St Lawrence, who is currently studying voice under Dr.Linda Hirst at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, was invited to be the guest soloist at the concert.

Georgia is no stranger to the Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir, having performed with them in Wales and during their recent tour to Bromley and Teddington in the London area.

At the concert, Georgia shared the stage with the choir's own bass soloist and impresario Tony Mullins, who incidentally, was also the compère.

Founded in 1971, the internationally renowned Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir carries on a tradition of choral singing in Kenfig that can be traced as far back as 1890.

Since those days, many choirs under the Kenfig Hill banner have come and gone.

However, today's choir is thriving and is supported by two enthusiastic up-and-coming junior choirs that will help to continue the Welsh choral traditions well into the foreseeable future.

The choir's visit to Jersey has been three years in the planning since the first tentative approaches were made to the Jersey Hospice Care in 2010.

It was the Jersey Hospice Care, who subsequently with the Jersey Opera House, made all the arrangements for the concert.

The Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir, itself a charitable organisation, has travelled extensively singing for good causes and charities in venues across England and Wales, as well as Ireland, France, Germany, Canada (twice), Norway, Poland and Estonia. It will now be able to chalk up Jersey on this impressive list.

Those who attended the concert at the Opera House were not disappointed. Under the baton of musical director Philip Juliff and accompanists Andrew Chinnock and Beryl Evans, everyone enjoyed an entertaining evening of music and choral singing which deservingly received a very responsive and appreciative accolade at its finale.

Over 350 people attended the concert, including Jersey's Chief Minister Ian Gorst . and Mrs Dionne Gorst, chairman of Jersey Hospice Care, Dr Gari Purcell-Jones and Mrs Helen Purcell-Jones; chairman of the board of Jersey Opera House, Pierre Horsfall, and Mrs Thelma Horsfall; president of Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir Win Griffiths and Mrs Ceri Griffiths; director of the Jersey Opera House, Jasmine Hendry; fundraising assistant Jersey Hospice Care, Louise Reynolds and Laurence Agnes, and Mrs Maria Gouveia.

The proceeds from the show were split between the Jersey Hospice Care Charity and the Jersey Opera House with the share for the latter going towards the continued maintenance of their Steinway grand piano.

ABOVE: Impresario, compère and Bass soloist Tony Mullins throwing himself, with his usual great enthusiasm, into his rendering of 'If I was a rich man' from Fiddler on the Roof'.

ABOVE: Prior to the concert, two Radio Jersey broadcasts were given by Keith E Morgan and Tony Mullins. Tony blasted DJs Kevin Pamplin and Charlie McArdle out of their studio with his rendering of 'Old Man River'. A great preview for the concert, giving an idea of the variety of music in the show.

ABOVE: Dr Gari Purcell-Jones, chairman of Jersey Hospice Care, presenting a bouquet of flowers to accompanist Beryl Evans, after which he thanked the choir and all concerned for a marvellous performance, which as a Welshman he greatly appreciated, especially the singing of 'Myfanwy'. He said that this song brought tears to his eyes and a lump in his throat.

ABOVE: The 'Barbara Shop' group of Georgia Mae Bishop, Elli Edmunds and Harriet Eaves.

Relaxing at the Merton Hotel after the concert (left to right): Keith E. Morgan; Don Daniel and Harold Phillips, secretary and chairman of the Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir respectively; Mrs Maria Gouveia and impresario Tony Mullins.

LEFT: Dr Gari Purcell-Jones, chairman of Jersey Hospice Care, with Louise Reynolds, fundraising assistant and volunteer bucket collectors for Jersey Hospice Care.

College students' play highlights the issue of 'harmful' bullying

THE Bridgend College Performing Arts group recently took to the stage with their play 'Tomorrow I'll be Happy', as part of the Young People's Anti-Bullying Conference at the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl.

The group comprised Samuel Creasey, Jess Kerslake, Jordan Biddle (first year performing arts students); Carl Thomas, Elora Smith, Laura Ebley, Sam Williams, Jessica Ringstead and Nathan Vaccari (second year); and Jay White and Libby Rogers (first year musical theatre students).

A challenging piece which deals with serious issues, 'Tomorrow I'll be Happy' tells the story of a stranger who visits a crumbling seaside town, looking for an old boyfriend, Darren Williams.

Discovering that Darren has been killed, the stranger digs deeper into the story, and finds that all is not as it seems, as the group of Darren's school friends are not as innocent as they make out.

'Tomorrow I'll be Happy' was originally staged as part of the National Theatre New Connections project, a script-writing competition for young people aged 14 to 21, run by the National Theatre, in which the winner has the opportunity to perform in the National Theatre on London's South Bank.

The message was that bullying was unacceptable.

This prestigious competition saw over 250 schools, colleges and youth theatres enter pieces, with Bridgend College's group invited to perform at the Wales Millennium Centre at the end of March.

Following this, the group performed to an audience of more than 450 across two days in the Bridgend College Sony Theatre. The performances were a resounding success, with excellent feedback from both the audience and the National Theatre director, Justin Audibert, who was very positive with regard to all aspects of the production.

The Young People's Anti-Bullying Conference (set up as part of Bridgend County Borough Council's 'Bridgend says End Bullying' programme) is a three-year Lottery funded programme.

Nicola Davies, Youth Service operational manager at Bridgend County Youth Service said: "This is our third Young People's Anti Bullying Conference, and it's great to see the issues we're addressing brought to life so vividly by Bridgend College's Performing Arts group".

As well as the performance, the conference included talks from the Mayor, Coun Clive James and Youth Mayor Catherine Jones, the showing of a 'Bridgend says End Bullying' film, and a range of workshops.

Coun Clive James commented: "The End Bullying project provides support for vulnerable young people between the ages of 11 – 25 and their families who experience isolation caused by issues surrounding bullying.

"As mayor of the borough I am heartened and encouraged to see young people seriously engaging and working together to stop this oppressive and harmful behaviour."

Bridgend's Rachel lands shock winner

RACHEL LEYSHON (19), from Bridgend, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, landed a 20-1 shock win when taking the ladies' open race at the Tiverton Staghounds Point-To-Point Steeplechases on her 11-year-old bay gelding *Shake The Bottle*.

Shake The Bottle came home ahead of another horse trained in the Vale *Respectuex*, a 14-1 chance ridden by Charlotte Prichard, and trained by David Brace at Pyle.

However, Mr Brace still had plenty to smile about as his *Son Of Swallow* took the intermediate race under Bradley Gibbs, who, like Leyshon, works for Vaughan.

Meanwhile at the Bicester & Whadon Chase at Whitfield, Mr Brace's *Moon Stream*, partnered by Llanharan's Tom David, won the open maiden at odds of 6-1.

Brace has now saddled 21 winners this season which is more than any other point-to-point trainer in the country.

BRIAN LEE

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Michael Burt receiving his award at the Tondu and District Art Society.

ABOVE: Joy Allen receives the Keith Coles Shield.

ABOVE: Rita Morgan (right) whose painting raised £4,500 for charities.

Sandra Owen receiving the donation from Brynteg pupils.

Brynteg volunteer models.

Maesteg Golf Club

MEMBERS at the club have kindly donated a voucher for four golfers to play a round on the course to raise funds to purchase equipment for Maesteg hospital.

The money will be donated to the Maesteg Hospital League of Friends. If interested in making an offer for this voucher, contact Tanya on 01656 754221.

Annual concert

THE Maesteg Hospital League of Friends is organising its annual concert at the Celtic Club, Garth, tomorrow, Friday, June 21 at 7pm.

Money raised will be used to buy essential equipment for use at Maesteg hospital. Well done to the members who have willingly spent the time organising this event. Also to the entertainers, who have given their time to raise funds for this wonderful organisation.

It features two well-known local choirs 'Côr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch' (Maesteg and District male voice choir) and 'Harmony' ladies' choir and soloist baritone Adam Lewis.

Tickets are £4 and can be obtained from the hospital receptionist, Maesteg library, and Marias Café, Commercial Street.

Maesteg Children's Choir

THIS long established choir is holding its 27th annual concert at Maesteg Town Hall on Friday, June 28 starting at 7pm.

Titled 'The Electrical Blues' it features songs from the 80s including 'Walking on Sunshine', 'Super Trouper' and 'Making your Mind Up'.

The choir's founding musical director, Enid-Sian Hughes, will be the conductor for the evening, assisted by new accompanist Alex Jenkins, and the compère for the evening will be the popular Tony Mullins.

Tickets can be obtained from choir members or by telephone 07970 770 927.

Tondu and District Art Society

I HAD the honour of being asked if I would open the above society's art exhibition.

The organisers were surprised at how short my opening speech was, but I am certain it was welcomed by the patrons, who were given more time to study the artwork.

Art from three competitions was on display and it had been judged by Ms Gillian Griffiths.

Gillian had been closely involved in the opening of the Physic Garden in Cowbridge and judged the 'Still Life with Flowers' competition, with the winner being awarded the Eileen Davies Memorial Cup.

The other judge was Ms Claire Hiett, fine arts lecturer at Bridgend College. She helped judge two events, 'Local Scenes', for which the winner would receive the Wendy James trophy, and 'A Walk on the Wild Side' with the winner receiving the Keith Coles Shield.

The winner of the Eileen Davies Memorial Cup was Michael Burt with his painting of 'Still life with flowers'. Highly commended was Jean Peatling's 'Daisy Chain', and commended was Rita Morgan's 'Still life variety'.

The winner of the Wendy James trophy was Chris Richards with his painting of 'Sunrise at Dunraven Bay'. Highly commended was Clive Davies with 'Evening at river walk' and commended was Jim Hayes' painting 'School holidays, Brynmenyn in 1930'.

The winner of the Keith Coles Shield was Joy Allen, with an interesting composition of her painting 'Short Cut'. Highly commended was Lorna Chilcott with 'Wild flowers' and commended was Joyce Griffiths' 'Windy Ridge'.

A special mention goes to Rita Morgan. Rita's son was a colour sergeant in the Royal Marines who served twice in Afghanistan. He had asked his mother if she would paint a military scene to put in an auction to raise money for the Royal Marines Charitable Trust.

Rita submitted the painting to be auctioned in the 'Painted Gallery', Greenwich, London, and it was recently sold at the auction for the magnificent sum of £4,500. Half the proceeds were donated to the Royal Marines Charitable Trust and half to the Marie Curie cancer care charity.

Well done to Rita for her marvelous effort.

Tondu Primary

MRS Susan Pilcher the headteacher would like to invite parents and friends of pupils in reception classes (Cynffig and Ewenni) to join their children in the class assembly tomorrow, Friday, June 21 at 10.20am. Everyone is welcome to stay and enjoy with friends and staff a hot drink of coffee or tea.

Unfortunately, the planned sports days have had to be cancelled because of poor weather. It is now hoped to hold sports days as follows: the nursery class on Wednesday, July 3 starting at 2pm in Heol Persondy buildings grounds. Reception and year-2 classes will have their sports day on Wednesday, July 10 at 11am in the Meadow Street grounds, and year 3 to 6 sports day will be on Monday, July 15 in Pandy Park.

The school's summer fair will be held on the Meadow Street site tomorrow Friday, June 21 at 3pm, during which there will be a fancy dress parade of children from Afan, Cynffig, Ewenni, Garw and Llynfi classes. There will also be a talent show by pupils in the junior classes.

Susan would like to thank children who joined the recent walking bus to school scheme, and congratulate Cameron Baker, Brydie Jones, Kelsie Mably, Shannon Mason, Drew White, Tamzin Williams for winning the prizes awarded in the scheme.

The 'Golden Boots' award was shared by classes Taf and Usk, who had the most walkers.

Brynteg Comprehensive School

I WOULD like to thank Bethany Parsons and Beth Boxall, year-12 students who supplied the information for this article.

Recently, the pupils at the school proudly presented The LATCH clothes show – a charity fundraising event held in Brynteg School.

Everyone at the school took part in this worthwhile event, either as an organiser, part of the audience or a model,

For many of those in Brynteg, especially year-12 students, LATCH is close to their hearts, as the children's charity had previously helped one of their fellow pupils during a very difficult time.

The night was full of fun, frocks and fashion.

The idea was thought of by Jemma Hirst, along with the team of fellow pupils: Eleanor Rice, Bethany Parsons, Bethan Boxall, Eleri Thomas, Jessica Matthews, Charlotte Moses, Lydia Christian, Sophie Davies and Rachael Sparrow.

Textile teacher Mrs Worsdell-Phillips and drama teacher Mrs Beasley also contributed.

On the night there was live music from acoustic singers, Aaron Wyn Nicholas and Sophie Hulmes, and dancing from this year's eisteddfod contest winners. There was also on display textiles work from pupils sitting KS3, GCSE and A-level courses. Refreshments were provided with a tea party theme.

Local business 'Pink Butterfly Brides' was also involved in the evening, as 'modern vs vintage' clothing went head to head, with the audience voting.

An eisteddfod competition was integrated into the fundraising by holding a LATCH T-shirt designing competition with a Welsh theme, and the best three T-shirts were displayed on the catwalk.

Volunteer model, Abbey Parsons said: "It was a fun experience and I felt honoured to help a charity in this simple way, something which is very rewarding and it is so vital to help one another".

Besides the suggested donation of £2 entry, extra money was raised though a raffle and the sale of wrist bands provided by LATCH.

Organiser Jemma Hirst commented: "The show seemed to go great, with everyone who came saying they had an enjoyable evening out. I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who attended with the common aim to raise money for LATCH."

The amount raised by Brynteg's year-12 pupils totalled £777.77 which was presented to Sandra Owen, a representative of the Porthcawl branch of the charity.

Maesteg U3A

THE members of Maesteg U3A would like to thank Ann Evans from Metro Ministries and her thought-provoking talk regarding child poverty and the work of the Metro World Child programme.

You can find out more about this initiative from its web site: http://www.metroworldchild.org/.

The next meeting is on June 25 at 2pm in Maesteg Central church hall, at which the guest speaker will be local historian David Lewis, giving a talk on the Maesteg Iron Works.

The U3A looks forward to seeing all existing members and welcoming any new members who wish to come along. For more information on what's on during the month, go to *www.maestegu3a.org*.

Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society

THE committee has managed to confirm the following dates for functions it has organised for later in the year.

Its 70th celebration annual concert based on the show '*Jekyll and Hyde*' is to take place in Maesteg Town Hall from Wednesday, October 23 to Saturday, October 26.

Its special 70th year platinum dinner will be held at the same venue on Friday, November 8. Members, associate members, non-playing members and patrons are all welcome.

Ogmore Vale Primary School

MR Paul Booth the headteacher would like to thank Mrs Davies and Mrs Sheppard of the nursery staff, who have provided so much assistance in the last school year and will be leaving the school at the end of term. He wishes them well in their new careers.

Bridgend Carer's Centre

THE above centre is a charity set up to provide support and information to carers, and is in 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (tel 01656 658479).

For carers who have difficulty coming to the centre on weekdays, it will be open on Saturday, June 22, so that they can meet staff members and discuss their concerns.

Take Note

THIS Maesteg contemporary vocal group, consisting of young singers of both sexes, will be performing in a concert at Gorwelion House, Porthcawl (the girl guide centre) at 7.30pm tonight,

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB

THE results for Bridgend bridge club are:

June 5: 1st Liam Sheridan and Edward Bertram, 2nd Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner, 3rd Ann Fox and John Raymond.

June 7: 1st Christine Evans and John Evans, 2nd Debbie Davies and John Beard, 3rd Eleanor Jones and Barrie Jenkins.

June 12: 1st Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner, 2nd Norma Newman and David Newman, 3rd John Henson and Geoff Tinkler.

June 14: 1st John Henson and Terry Dolan, 2nd Christine Evans and John Evans, 3rd Mari Jones and Irene Wickham.

JE

Celebration of the role played by volunteers

ABOVE: Huw Irranca-Davies MP with BAVO employees at an outdoor volunteers' event in Bridgend town centre.

CROWDS gathered in brilliant sunshine to find out about volunteering opportunities throughout Bridgend county borough from outdoor stalls set up in the town centre.

The event was organised by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) as part of National Volunteers' Week.

Huw Irranca-Davies, MP for Ogmore, who attended the event, said:

"Volunteers do an essential job for our local community and since being elected I have seen the positive effects for the people, places and projects which have been run by volunteers.

"Indeed, the best projects in the local community are those run by volunteers.

"It is vital we reflect on the benefits volunteers bring to society and how our own lives are enhanced by the role of volunteers."

Contact 01656 810400, or www.bavo.org.uk for further information.

Charity concert is part of the Ewenny Festival

MENTAL Health Matters Wales has organised a charity concert in aid of the Llanfair Unit at Llandough Hospital.

The concert is part of the Ewenny Arts Festival, and is at Ewenny Priory Church, with music from Ruth and Catherine Felton, with Ni'n Pedwar, Helen Davies and Rosie Howarth.

The instrumentalists are former National Youth Orchestra of Wales members, and the singers regularly perform with BBC Chorus.

The programme will include classical and contemporary pieces, as well as some songs from the shows.

It takes place on Friday July 5, at 7.30pm. Tickets (£5) are available from Ewenny Pottery 01656 653020, Helen 01656 667047 or Mari 01656 664105.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell finds that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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VALE HORSE TRADER IS GUILTY OF CAUSING SUFFERING TO ANIMALS

A SOUTH Wales man has been found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to and failing to meet the needs of 27 horses.

The verdict came a month after his two sons admitted offences relating to the same group of equines.

Thomas Tony Price (49) of Glan y Mor Lane, Wick, was found guilty of a total of 57 offences at Cardiff Magistrates' Court.

His eldest son Thomas Hope Price (26) of Rover Way, Cardiff pleaded guilty to 42 charges, including causing unnecessary suffering to 18 horses, at Cardiff Magistrates' Court on May 8.

The remaining charges involved failing to meet the welfare needs of these and a further nine horses by either failing to address their weight loss, protect them from injury, pain or disease, or failing to ensure they had clean and hazard-free environments with dry lying areas.

A second son, Tony John Price (19) also of Rover Way, Cardiff, admitted failing to meet the welfare needs of a piebald cob colt by failing to explore and address his weight loss and failing to meet the welfare needs of a piebald filly on May 8.

Price senior was the director of a business known as Glamorgan Horse Traders and Thomas Price was listed as secretary of the same business which deals in horses across the UK, Europe and America.

The offences related to 27 gypsy cob type ponies which were removed from five different locations across the Vale and Bridgend between February and March 2012.

Sixteen of the horses were chipped and further investigations identified a link to Thomas Price senior.

Twelve of the horses were found locked in a barn with no space or access to food or water. They were very underweight and suffering from various untreated conditions.

The Prices are thought to own around 2,500 horses which are kept at various locations throughout Wales and England.

The RSPCA and other charities had previously advised them to keep the numbers down and manage breeding as they couldn't guarantee the care arrangements of most of the animals and, since around 2011, problems developed with stray horses and 'fly grazing' in the south Wales area.

RSPCA inspector Christine McNeil said: "These horses turned out to be the most poorly and diseased horses I have come across. It is my belief that the 12 in the barn had been left there to die.

"These horses were suffering or their needs were not being met but there are hundreds of other horses across Wales and England which may not be suffering but are just being left to illegally graze and indiscriminately breed. It really is a massive problem that we struggle to deal with day after day."

The three men will be sentenced at Cardiff Magistrates' Court on July 5.

RSPCA National Director for Wales, Steve Carter, said: "This case highlights the fact that owners need to be made accountable for their horses. The issues of fly grazing, abandonment and irresponsible breeding need to be addressed with strong and effective legislation.

"Our resources and those of other welfare charities are at breaking point and urgent action is needed to avoid what is already an animal welfare crisis getting any worse."

Mystery as fish found dead in Llynfi

OFFICERS from Natural Resources Wales are investigating an incident on the River Llynfi in Bridgend where over 300 fish have died.

The incident has been reported to Natural Resources Wales by a local angler.

Officers found the fish, which include trout, smolt, stone loach and bull heads, and have started a number of tests to find the cause of the deaths.

Initial indications show that water quality in the river appears normal, and officers have noticed no sign of any visible pollution, or any odour from the river.

They have taken a number of water samples to be analysed further.

A spokesperson from Natural Resources Wales said: "We'll be monitoring the river closely over the coming days as we try and find the source of what has caused these fish to die.

"We'd like to ask local anglers and people walking near the river to get in touch with us if they notice anything unusual which they think could be related to this incident."

People can contact Natural Resources Wales by calling the incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

Sainsbury's Bridgend raises £2,583 for table tennis champ

Sainsbury's staff members present Cellan Hall with the monies raised through a series of activities.

SAINSBURY'S Bridgend has presented Cellan Hall, 15, with a grand fundraising total of £2,583; this has been raised through the support of Sainsbury's Bridgend, and the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of family, friends and Brynteg Comprehensive, through bag packing, raffle prizes and having exercise bikes in Sainsbury's Bridgend store.

The money raised through fundraising will help Cellan, who has cerebral palsy from the hip down, go to training events like the 'British Development Camp' in Sheffield and from there they pick people for the performance squad.

Cellan has attended three times this year but it costs £250 a time plus equipment costs, so the money from fundraising at Sainsbury's Bridgend will really help.

Cellan, a pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive trains five times a week and back in March won bronze in the British Nationals. Cellan's mum, Anita Davies, said: "I will do whatever it takes, I just want to help Cellan try to do what he wants."

Simon Lean, store manager at Sainsbury's Bridgend said: "This is a fantastic amount raised for such an inspirational young man, the colleagues and I wish Cellan every success in his future as a table tennis champion and well done to Sainsbury's Bridgend for all their support given to Cellan, family and friends for raising £2,583."

Dogs Trust fete and fun dog show is back!

DOGS Trust Bridgend is once again welcoming furry friends and their owners to another fun-filled Summer Fete on Sunday, June 23 at Margam Country Park.

Highlights include: Obedience and agility displays; Fun dog show; Grand raffle; Doggy tombola, lucky dip, games for all the family and, returning again, Doggy Dash!

An array of stalls and refreshments; a bouncy castle and Fun Fair; a drop stop for charity donations; a doggy dancing display and there will be free microchipping for all dogs.

Beverley Price, Dogs Trust Bridgend rehoming centre manager, said: "The open day is packed with interesting stalls and fun-filled activities for your little terrors to enjoy, both two-legged and four. All funds raised on the day will go towards the care and upkeep of stray, abandoned and unwanted dogs that regularly come into the Rehoming Centre."

She added: "It's also a great chance to come and take a look at some of the dogs looking for new homes at the centre. We always look forward to seeing lots of familiar faces at our open day, especially some of our ex-canine residents who have gone on to find wonderful new homes."

The event will run from 10.30am – 4pm and access is through the main entrance on the Castle Lawns. Car Parking is free for those attending the event. Entrance is £3 per person, 50p per child and free for children under five years of age.

Classes in this year's Fun Dog Show include: Golden Oldie; Best Pooch Pair; Prettiest Bitch; Most Handsome Dog; Best Child Handler; Best Rescue; Best 6 Legs.

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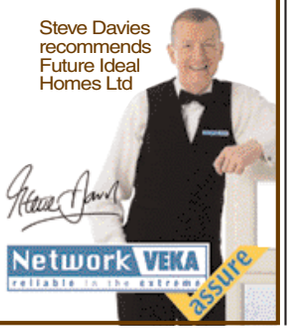

Network VEKA reliable in the extreme assure

Age Concern's coffee morning

AGE Concern is starting a new coffee and chat session in Ogmore on Thursday June 27 at Franklin's Café in Ogmore by Sea, meeting the last Thursday of every month, 1.30pm – 3pm.

Jane Platts said: "If you are aged over 50 and need any information and support, or if you just fancy a coffee and a chat we would love to see you too!"

It is run by the Rural Connections project, which is funded by the National Lottery under the Friendly AdvantAGE scheme.

For more information, contact Jane Platts on 01446 795631 or email jane.platts@age-concern-cardiff.org.uk.

RNLI rescue

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

From there he was taken to hospital and treated for a broken wrist.

As there was no secure mooring for the yacht, the Mumbles Tyne Class all-weather lifeboat was launched to tow the yacht to Swansea Marina. However, as the conditions were very rough, it was decided to wait until the next morning to tow the boat to a safe mooring.

The following morning, Porthcawl Lifeboat towed the yacht to the River Afan and, assisted by Port Talbot Lifeboat, put the yacht on a safe mooring up river.

Porthcawl RNLI local operations manager, Phil Missen, said: "The rescue of this yachtsman and his boat was a success, due to the keen observation of a person from Ogmore-by-Sea, who saw the boat drifting uncontrollably towards Newton Point, and alerted the Coastguard.

"This rescue involved four RNLI Lifeboats – all crewed by volunteers who do this in their own time for no payment. The sacrifice they give the sea-going community is second to none.

"The team work between the different crews involved in the rescue was excellent, and was a result of the commitment and training they do every week."

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Local young parents welcome 'BabySteps' pioneering programme

A GROUP of young parents from Bridgend were among the first in Wales to complete a pioneering new antenatal programme aimed at helping vulnerable parents cope with the pressures of having a new baby.

The programme, called BabySteps, is being run by the NSPCC locally and aims to help participants to set a pattern of good parenting for life.

NSPCC midwife practitioner Nikki Rhys-Jones, who runs the course along with children's services practitioner Hayley Davies said: "Antenatal classes in the UK tend to focus on the actual birth rather than teach parents about the impact that a baby will have on their lives.

"They do not reach many vulnerable parents and often dads don't feel fully involved.

"Supporting vulnerable parents to prepare for the roles and responsibilities of parenthood is one of the best ways to get families off to the best possible start.

"Pregnancy and the weeks immediately after the birth of a baby offer a golden opportunity to work with parents who, for various reasons, are in need of extra support.

"The first weeks after the baby is born are also a critical point within which to begin challenging attitudes that could lead to a baby being harmed."

Feedback from both participants and the programme practitioners has been extremely positive.

Georgia Silvester, 18, from Cefn Cribwr, is mum to Elsie May. She said: "My midwife referred me from my local clinic and I'd definitely recommend it to others. You get to meet other young parents-to-be and the workers who run the course are really down-to-earth."

Escha Leigh Fry, 21, lives locally and is mum to Ellie. She said: "I've done my own research about motherhood but it helped to put it all into perspective. I reunited with old friends and found the workers really helpful and supportive."

Last chance to enter business awards

THERE'S just under two weeks left to enter the Bridgend Business Forum Awards 2013.

The awards have been designed to celebrate the achievements of a wide variety of businesses in Bridgend county borough, and showcase the most promising, innovative companies and celebrate the dedication to outstanding achievements in business.

The awards will culminate in a glittering ceremony hosted by BBC TV presenter, Sian Lloyd at the Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel, Coychurch, Bridgend, on September 20.

Entries are welcomed from every size and sector of business, including social enterprises and entrepreneurs. Businesses can also enter more than one category.

Alison Hoy, chair of the Bridgend Business Forum said: "I am thrilled that the Bridgend Business Forum is able to celebrate the best of local business.

"We are looking for local businesses which not only meet the criteria for these awards, but can also demonstrate that they have an extra something special or have gone the extra mile to achieve their goals."

The deadline is July 1. Go to *www.bridgendbusinessforum.co.uk* for more information.

Porthcawl hospital meeting is unanimous

AT last Wednesday's well-attended public meeting at the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl, the people of Porthcawl sent the clearest message yet that Porthcawl overwhelmingly supports the recommended 'Five Hospitals' and 'Option 3' as explained in the consultation questionnaire.

The meeting was very well attended and unanimously voted, by show of hands, in favour of Option 3. In a full two-hour session all the options were thoroughly explored.

The question of travel, shortage of doctors, and the impact on the Welsh Ambulance Service were all aired.

Porthcawl SHOUT's meeting, 2pm at Trinity Church on July 5 will be the last time the issues are debated in the town before the closing date on July 19.

The public are reminded that the return of the consultation questionnaires included in the blue booklet 'The South Wales Programme' remains important and is considered essential to ensure this choice of options are finally adopted. (Copies are still available at the town library, the information centre and Trinity Church.)

CLIVE MORT

MP welcomes veterans' medal

BRIDGEND MP, Madeleine Moon, has welcomed the announcement by the Foreign Secretary, William Hague that British veterans will be permitted to accept and wear the Russian Ushakov medal.

The Russian Government requested permission in May last year to award the medal to veterans of the Arctic Convoys, but under existing rules governing the acceptance of medals, and in particular those from foreign governments, permission was not granted.

Mrs Moon said: "I am delighted that the UK Government has finally made an exception to allow these veterans to accept and wear the Ushakov medal. It was very disappointing for many veterans to be told last year that they had to refuse the offer of a medal from the Russian government, and I am pleased this decision has been overturned.

"Following in the wake of the Government's decision to issue the Arctic Star to veterans of the convoys in recognition of their vital role and the harsh conditions they endured, it was a pleasant surprise to learn that the veterans can now accept the medal."

"No details as yet are available regarding what veterans need to do following this announcement, but I understand it will be for the Russian authorities to contact veterans and make the necessary arrangements. Should more information become available, I will pass it on."

Veterans and their families interested in applying for the Arctic Star can find more information through this link http://www.veterans-uk.info/arctic_star_index.htm or by calling 08457 800 900.

MP's surgeries

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies, will be holding street surgeries in Gilfach Goch between 1pm and 3pm on Friday, June 21.

This will be followed by a 'drop in' session at the Gilfach Goch Community and Recreation Centre, Cambrian Avenue, Gilfach Goch, between 3pm and 4pm.

Police appeal to locate Porthcawl woman

Gayle Noble.

SOUTH Wales Police are appealing to the public for information that will help them locate a wanted woman, Gayle Noble from Porthcawl.

The 35-year-old is wanted in connection with an assault which occurred in the early hours of Wednesday, May 8, outside the Seaways Hotel on St Mary Street in Porthcawl.

She is described as five feet two inches tall and of medium build. She has straight, shoulder length brown hair and brown eyes.

Anyone who knows her whereabouts, or who thinks they may have seen her, is urged to call Porthcawl police station on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and quote reference 62130135984.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Coco will bring you joy!

COCO is a one-year-old Collie who is unsure of people she doesn't know, but, as always in these cases, you will be repaid with a gorgeous, loyal and affectionate dog once she trusts you!

She really loves the company of other dogs, so is looking for a home with some canine companions to show her the ropes.

She is fine to be left alone for a few hours, and is good travelling in the car. As a Collie, she is very bright, and will make a lovely, rewarding dog for the right owner.

Her new owner will need to make a few trips to visit her at the centre, before taking her home and we will help you introduce your own dogs to the lovely Coco.

If you would like any more information about Coco, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG. We are open 12pm-4pm every day except Monday, with late night opening on Wednesdays until 8pm.

Linda Feagan

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Tackling potholes across the Vale

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Sully pupils become engineers for the day!

Pupils working together to build the bridge. Photo by Fotowales.

PUPILS from Sully Primary School have been encouraged to think about engineering during a workshop organised by the Institution of Civil Engineers, the oldest professional institution in the world.

Both year-5 classes were given the opportunity to build a 15-metre cable-stayed bridge – a mini version of the second Severn crossing – supported by civil engineering ambassadors and CITB ConstructionSkills Wales.

The children – wearing high visibility jackets, hard hats, gloves and goggles – worked in their school hall in two teams to construct the bridge from opposite ends before meeting in the middle.

Once completed, the children were able to walk across the bridge… after first sending their headteacher Mrs Hart and teachers Mrs Martin and Miss Reynolds over to test it!

Keith Jones, director ICE Wales Cymru, said: "Civil engineers are highly skilled individuals with a flair for problem solving with excellent earning potential and we would like to encourage young people, particularly girls, to consider civil engineering as a possible career path."

He continued: "ICE Wales Cymru regularly takes bridges into schools across Wales – working with CITB ConstructionSkills Wales and Careers Wales – interacting with thousands of young people each year, raising awareness of what we do as civil engineers and encouraging them to think about becoming professional engineers in the future."

Mrs Hart said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed the bridge building workshops and their insight into what being an engineer is like.

"They particularly enjoyed working with real civil engineers, who also shared their experiences of working on a variety of engineering projects from mining in Australia to working on the Olympic Stadium – and that was just the female engineers!"

Appeal over parking

PENARTH'S longest serving councillor has expressed his concerns over apparent anomalies in the new parking restrictions in Penarth Town Centre, citing the fact that many unwary motorists are receiving unexpected parking penalties.

Coun Anthony Ernest said that since the replacement 'limited waiting' signs had been renewed in Windsor Road, which now allocate goods vehicle parking only between early morning and later in the day, numerous motorists had received tickets for parking private cars in the spaces allocated for goods vehicles, prior to the lifting of the restriction at midday.

Said Coun Ernest: "It seems that these specialist restrictions for heavy goods vehicles have been implemented without any prior or public consultation, and this has caused unwitting motorists, who assume that they can park quite legally in these spaces, to be pounced on by the new traffic wardens patrolling Penarth's streets."

He said particular problems had been caused by the restrictions outside the Co-op store and Nationwide Building Society premises.

Coun Ernest added: "I hope that the Vale Council will give serious consideration to cancelling these penalties until improved markings are evident".

Mum thanks man who helped during daughter's seizure

A Llantwit Major mum has thanked an unknown man who helped her when her teenage daughter suffered an epileptic fit while they were out walking to the local post box.

Kay Griffiths said: "May I through The GEM say a 'HUGE THANKYOU' to the very kind gentleman who came to my assistance when my daughter suffered an epileptic seizure on the corner of Grange Gardens whilst out walking to the post box.

"He kindly offered physical support as well as reassurance until my husband arrived in the car to take us home where she rested until fully recovered.

"Several other people also stopped and offered help. To you all, we say thank you. Your kindness was very much appreciated."

Local bureau recognises volunteers

DURING National Volunteers Week in early June, the Vale Volunteer Bureau hosted three events to promote volunteering and recognise those who give their time to help others.

On June 3, the bureau opened its new premises in Llantwit Major.

The new office which is located next to the Post Office on Boverton Road was officially opened at 10am by local cabinet member Coun Gwyn John.

This facility is open from 10am to 2pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for anyone interested in volunteering, or for volunteer recruiting organisations.

On Wednesday, June 5 the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Margaret Wilkinson presented certificates to volunteers of the Vale Volunteer Bureau at their premises on Holton Road in Barry.

To culminate the week, the Vale Volunteer Bureau held an 'Appreci8' event to celebrate the time given by all local volunteers.

This event took place at King Square, Holton Road, Barry, on Saturday, June 8.

Pub competition finds new home

IT was a sad day, at the end of April, when the Barry pub Gordon Bennett's closed its doors for the last time, after 10 years of trading in the Broad Street area.

Landlord Mr Ben Bennett had hosted the competition, the KGB Tournament (named after his father Kenneth George Bennett) that over the years had helped raise money for various charities, but in particular The Jam Fund.

The competition is run on the basis of predicting Premiership Football results throughout the season and then at the end of the season, the participant with the most points wins the prize money from the pool of people who entered, along with the accolade of having their name engraved into the history books and onto the coveted trophy itself.

Customers and competitors old and new, past and present expressed their concerns over the future of the competition and it was an actual competitor by the name of Sue Orpin, who came forward to volunteer the services of The Barry Plastics Club Market Street, Barry.

This year's winner was Ivan MacKenzie.

BB

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Queen's Birthday Honour for local Porthcawl U3A man

MEMBERS of Porthcawl U3A are celebrating the news that one of its founding members, and its current joint president, has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the recently announced Welsh Honours list.

Handel Davies, the organisation's present chairman, said: "I speak as a close friend of Doug, and I also speak on behalf of our 501 members when we send him our heartfelt congratulations on receiving this richly deserved award.

"As one of the founders of Porthcawl U3A, Doug has worked tirelessly, together with his wife Dorothy, also joint president, to build the organisation into the highly appreciated, wonderful, organisation it is today.

"He has also served on the management committee of the University of the Third Age nationally, and has helped the organisation to develop throughout the world as a major vehicle to enhance learning."

Clive Mort

Doug and Dorothy Jones, who are joint presidents of Porthcawl U3A.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

Porthcawl firefighter is awarded an MBE

PORTHCAWL Watch Manager Dave King of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service has been awarded the MBE in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list.

For over 43 years, Dave, of Porthcawl Fire Station, has provided a loyal, professional and dedicated service to the communities of south Wales, in particular Porthcawl.

This has been recognised by the Queen, in awarding Dave an MBE in her Birthday Honours list.

The Chief Fire Officer of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Huw Jakeway, said: "I would like to pass my congratulations onto Dave.

"To be awarded with an MBE is an excellent honour and one which Dave King truly deserves in recognition of the dedication he has shown through the years of service he has given to the communities of Porthcawl and south Wales during his employment with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service."

Recycling is 'smiles' better at Heronsbridge

A NEW friendly face can be seen smiling on the playground at Heronsbridge School in the shape of a novelty bin that is helping to teach the pupils about recycling.

'Tarian', as he has already been named, was won as a raffle prize by the Bridgend special school in a recent conference organised for the county borough's head teachers.

The prize was donated by 'County Borough Supplies' which is a service set up jointly by Bridgend County Borough Council and three other local authorities to provide a range of products for councils, schools, charities and other public sector and non-profit making organisations.

Representatives from Heronsbridge's eco committee welcomed their new arrival to the school during 'National Recycling Week', and head teacher Glynis James said: "Our pupils are always excellent at recycling and this new bin will take pride of place in the seniors' schoolyard. As a school we are very much committed to being 'green' and teaching the children about the environment, and we are hoping that our efforts will help us to earn a third 'green flag' award later in the year."

Heronsbridge School's dedication to all things green will be further demonstrated this Sunday, June 23 when they open up their prized gardens and new eco cabin to the public as part of the National Gardens Scheme.

For further information please visit www.ngs.org.uk.

Carol James (County Borough Supplies), head teacher Glynis James and teacher Julie Blackwell join pupils with the new novelty recycling bin.

EARLY WELSH CHORAL MUSIC

WE wish to point out an error in your newspaper of Thursday, June 13.

In an article entitled 'Welsh Camerata', it was stated that they are "Wales' only specialist early music choir".

This is clearly not the case, as we also specialise in early music, and have been performing regularly for more than 30 years.

We are the St Donats Chamber Choir, and we meet every Sunday at 7.30pm at Ewenny Priory Church. We welcome anyone interested in singing this type of 'a cappella' music.

Peter Coombs, Ogmore-by-Sea

TOWN AND COUNTRY FURNITURE, BRIDGEND

CLOSING DOWN

END OF LEASE & RETIREMENT SALE

TRADE PRICE FURNITURE LIQUIDATION

OUR WAREHOUSE STOCKS ARE NOW SELLING OUT FAST

Due the retirement of our Managing Director, Mr Andrew Ezard, and the termination of our lease here in our Bridgend store we are **CLOSING DOWN**. The store had been closed in preparation to cut prices on our **entire showroom and warehouse stocks.**

ALL STOCKS AND DISPLAY ITEMS HAVE BEEN DRASTICALLY REDUCED
....EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD OUT ASAP!!!!

.....Including Suites, Recliner suites, Easy chairs, Recliner Chairs, Dining tables and Chairs, Sideboards, Nests of Tables, Bookcases, Coffee Tables, Wardrobes, Beds, Mattresses, Bed-frames, Adjustable Beds, Headboards, Rugs etc etc

....JUSTA SAMPLE OF WHAT'S ON OFFER IN STORE

SLIDING DOOR WARDROBES FROM ONLY £299	MONTANA 3 PIECE SUITE WAS £2299 NOW £895	SWIVEL RECLINERS WITH FOOTSTOOLS REDUCED FROM £159	LESS THAN HALF PRICE OAK NESTS NOW £89	BRANDY RECLINER CHAIRS WAS £399 NOW £219	ALL RUGS LESS THAN HALF PRICE
JADE FIRESIDE CHAIRS WAS £549 NOW £249	MEMORY SINGLE DRAWER DIVAN ONLY £199	QUALITY DOUBLE BEDS NOW £175	TABLE AND 4 CHAIR SETS FROM ONLY £89	SAN DIEGO PINE COFFEE TABLE WITH DRAWERS £89	PINE NESTS OF TABLES £59
SAN DIEGO PINE BOOKCASES FROM £79	TUB CHAIRS HALF PRICE WAS £299 NOW £149	KINGSIZE POCKETMEMORY DIVAN WITH DRAWERS AND HEADBOARD AMAZING OFFER!!!! NOW £449	FOOTSTOOLS IN VARIOUS FABRICS NOW £35	LARGE SOLID OAK SIDEBOARD WAS £599 NOW £349	QUALITY ADJUSTABLE BEDS NOW £445

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Out and About with The GEM

Have a brew-up for Marie Curie!

Millie Charles-Davies at the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth.

LOCAL teen beauty queen Millie Charles-Davies is supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care's Blooming Great Tea Party campaign this summer.

At Galaxy Pageant last year, she won the title of Miss Galaxy Teen Barry, and her chosen charity was Marie Curie.

Millie's mum said: "Having lost her Nan to cancer two years ago this is very close to her heart, and Marie Curie made things so much more bearable for the whole family. The hospice itself and the staff are like guardian angels, when you don't know what to do and how to cope.

"As a family, we will always be eternally grateful to them."

Millie is urging everyone to join her and sign up to hold a tea party in June and July.

For more information, contact the local fundraising office on 02920 426068 or you can register online at www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty.

This Man of Steel is anything but super...

THE last time Superman hit cinema screens in 2006's *Superman Returns*, the end result was an effort that was more a loving tribute to Richard Donner's seminal 1978 film than an attempt to re-establish 'Supes' in the 21st century.

With Chris Nolan stepping into the producer's shoes, and Zack Snyder at the helm, more is expected of *Man Of Steel*, which sees Henry Cavill step into the iconic red and blue costume.

When earth is invaded by fellow Kryptonian General Zod (Michael Shannon) and his army, Clark Kent must become the icon he was destined to be from the start, and stop Zod from destroying his adopted planet...

The big problem Bryan Singer had when *Superman Returns* was released was how you put such a clean-cut, straight-edged hero into a world that, post 9/11, has seen black and white, good and evil, become a seemingly infinite number of grey shades.

The answer then was to steer clear, to stick to the moral code of the late 1970s, and understandably the film just didn't resonate.

For Christopher Nolan, David S Goyer and Zack Snyder, there has been no reticence in updating Superman, having seen how the best superhero films of recent times have played things with a realistic tint; however, while this is certainly to be applauded, it is unfortunate that *Man Of Steel* leaves you still waiting for a great modern Superman film.

The story plays as part origin story, part 'first contact' film, as we learn about the background to the original superhero and what happens when a man from an alien planet comes to earth and is brought out in the open for the world to see.

While the opening 40 minutes or so play out that way (along with an epic opening set piece on Supe's home planet of Krypton) and make for a far more grounded take on the character than we've previously seen on screen, the film takes a turn for the worse as dramatic subtlety is replaced by the sort of ridiculous CGI carnage that even Michael Bay might actually balk at.

The narrative gives way to what feels like one constant action sequence, technically superb but smacking of overkill in the extreme, as people are smashed through buildings, trucks, satellites… you name, it's probably been destroyed in this film!

Zack Snyder has been a director capable of marrying substance to visual style, and while *Man Of Steel* certainly doesn't lack the latter (although his annoying overuse of slow-motion has now been replaced by triple-zooms), there just doesn't feel anywhere near enough of the former, the story padded out by the aforementioned overlong action and having no depth.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

It isn't a surprise the cast don't offer their best work, as both Amy Adams (as Lois Lane) and Michael Shannon as Zod are given very little by the script, particularly Adams, who is given a Lois less ballsy and more damsel-in-distress, while Shannon just never quite gets to grips with the role of Zod, the arch villainy the actor is more than capable of swallowed up by the weak screenplay.

However, Henry Cavill is a perfect Superman for the 21st century, less red and blue boy scout and more aware of the world around him and the impact his appearance will have on it.

The script makes passing mention of how his loyalties are torn between earth and Krypton (something sadly underdeveloped) and Cavill captures the anguish and nobility of the character incredibly well.

With Russell Crowe and Kevin Costner (as Superman's Krypton father and earth father respectively) bringing gravitas to small but pivotal roles, this triumvirate show the rest of the cast how it's done, shining when all around them is less than sparkling.

You do get the feeling that now the heavy lifting of re-establishing Superman on the big screen has been done, future films will be able to soar unencumbered by the weight of setting things up – but those hoping that *Man Of Steel* would be the best offering yet for the character will certainly feel disappointed.

VERDICT: A leggy effort that sees its best moments overshadowed by a weak script and far too much reliance on OTT CGI histrionics, *Man Of Steel* is less than super.

While Henry Cavill shows huge promise in the lead role, and with plenty of potential for future films to expand on this one, this film pales into comparison against other examples of the genre. *Poor.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Batman Begins* (2005), *Avengers Assemble* (2012).

Art Society welcomes artist

ON Thursday, June 27, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes local artist Peter Cronin (see www.petercronin.org) who will lead a practical sketching session.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm to 9pm.

Visitors are most welcome. For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

WHAT'S ON...

Tax advice

THE next income tax surgery to offer free professional help and advice to those with tax queries will be held at Pencoed Library on Thursday, July 18.

To book an appointment, telephone 0845 6013321.

Opera delights

A MIDSUMMER Music fundraising event for George Thomas Hospice, a major provider of specialist palliative care to those suffering cancer and other life threatening illnesses in Cardiff, takes place on Friday, June 28 at Cottrell Park Golf Club.

Opera Delights starts at 7pm with a reception, followed by a two-course meal and coffee. Some of Wales' best opera singers will sing light opera and West End standards.

For tickets, contact the hospice on 02920 524150.

Breast Cancer strawberry tea

THE public are urged to host a strawberry tea party for Breast Cancer Care Cymru this summer – to help support the 2,600 people diagnosed with breast cancer each year in Wales.

A spokeswoman, Charlotte Corsan, explained: "All you need to do is buy or bake some cakes, add some strawberries, put the kettle on and away you go! It doesn't matter if you raise £20 or £200 because every penny counts."

Register for a free Strawberry Tea fundraising pack at www.breastcancercare.org.uk/strawberry or call 0870 164 9422.

Brass Band

AS last year's visit to Fecamp in Normandy by the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band was such a success, they were pleased to be invited to visit again this year. As the Vale is twinned with Fecamp, the band consider it an honour to be asked to be representatives at the annual festival.

The band will be leaving Barry early on Friday June 21 and returning very late on Sunday 23, tired but happy.

Fibromyalgia support

THE Fibromyalgia support group south Wales, will hold a meeting on the third Wednesday of each month in Nolton Church Hall, Bridgend, 12pm–2pm.

Sufferers, carers and family are all welcome for friendly advice and a chat.

Contact Yvonne (01639 681468) or email singletonyvonne@gmail.com

It's all happening...
Llantwit Major's
Victorian Fair Day

AND

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CRAFT &
GIFT FAIRS

New stalls to see...
SAME DAY
Saturday 22nd June
Llantonian Hall
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Come and see your regular favourites, look at new stalls and indulge in a yummy snack.
Enquiries, contact Peta Shields
E: petashields@gmail.com

Out and About with The GEM

Ty Hafan dads battle the weather on 'Two Peaks'

A GROUP of Ty Hafan dads were among 200 intrepid fundraisers to complete the GE Aviation Wales Welsh3peaks challenge, which turned into the 2peaks challenge due to the unpredictable Welsh weather, in less than 10 hours on Saturday, June 15.

Unfortunately due to the severe weather conditions, the decision was made not to climb Snowdon to ensure the safety of participants.

Among those taking part were Bradley Watson, Angelo Pucella from Bridgend, Gary Footman, Matthew Smith, Hywel Tyler and Andrew Davies, who all share the experience of being supported by Ty Hafan.

Matthew Smith's four-year-old son, Lewis, suffers from Tuberous Sclerosis and was referred to Ty Hafan over three years.

"It was a huge challenge but I'm so pleased we did it," said Matthew, of Llantwit Fadre. "We are all exhausted now but are so proud of what we've achieved.

"It has been a great way to show our appreciation for the amazing team at Ty Hafan and we'll be continuing with our fundraising efforts over the coming months."

Roy Noble to interview Penarth war veteran

THE Cowbridge Book Festival is delighted to be launching *Men I Have Known*, the latest book by award-winning local author Eileen Younghusband.

On her 92nd birthday, Eileen and popular BBC personality Roy Noble will talk about her latest book and her extraordinary life.

With a long life packed with remarkable memories – from sounding the alert for the first V2 rocket attack on London to the array of famous men she has met, it's little wonder that Eileen has been a popular guest on the Breakfast News and The One Show, in recent months.

Eileen's new book is a lighthearted and fascinating sequel to her acclaimed wartime autobiography, *One Woman's War*.

She charts her 92 years, from the 1920s to the present day, through the truly extraordinary men she has met, giving a unique, intimate and personal perspective on some of the most influential men of the twentieth century.

She writes about Winston Churchill, Augustus John, Rex Harrison, Dylan Thomas and even Idi Amin!

One thing is certain – Roy Noble will have plenty of fascinating material to draw from for what promises to be a lively and entertaining interview.

RIGHT: Eileen Younghusband

All proceeds from this event will be donated to The Noah's Ark Appeal, Children's Hospital of Wales and Leukemia & Lymphoma Research.

For further information, including more detail on this book, visit the festival website www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk.

Men I Have Known is being presented at the Cowbridge United Free Church on July 4 at 2.30pm.

Tickets are available from David Barnes (Dry cleaners) 35 High Street, Cowbridge; Nicklebys, Pound Field, Llantwit Major; or online from TicketlineUK 02920 230130 or phone Stella Cheeseman 01446 774827. **SRC**

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 779.

- **£2,000: 152709**.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £2,000, was won by 826904.**
- **£10:** 186042, 211562, 440480, 943380, 442726, 604591, 714113, 322426, 549432, 539591, 602666, 486885, 433024, 352222, 473459, 216347, 401928, 373456.
- **£5:** 719606, 231748, 600047, 267545, 235702, 347517, 192684, 212149, 560374, 175179, 335731, 274105, 527732, 133645, 476263, 111610, 463848, 667885, 269506, 287257, 230773, 551582, 538413, 118637, 195225, 351436, 881426, 457477, 494253, 771245, 288903, 440817, 381546, 517919, 768858, 252125, 451472, 139951, 350830, 529381, 268271, 548994, 549878, 221045, 784555, 467399, 118073, 158577, 106301, 545711, 639456, 793137, 319583, 626424, 125514, 656724, 225949, 624809, 255526, 869655.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

What's on, and where?

Cavatina concert

THE cabaret ensemble, All That Malarkey, will be the special guests at Cavatina Singers' next concert, Strawberry Soiree, on Saturday, June 29, at 3pm at All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth.

The programme of light music by Cavatina and entertainment by the ensemble will be followed by a strawberry and cream tea.

Call 02920 512054, and further details can be obtained from Anne Birt on 07976 646375 or *annebirt52@icloud.com* The event will be on the Cancer Research website at the beginning of July.

Charity night for Wales Air Ambulance

A FUNDRAISING night is being held in aid of the Wales Air Ambulance at Market Street Social Club, Barry on Saturday, June 22 from 7.30pm with live music from Dansette soul band, playing all the favourite soul music, plus a disco and buffet.

The Wales Air Ambulance is a registered charity providing a vital service throughout the whole of Wales.

As a charity, it relies completely on the generosity of the Welsh public to keep the helicopters airborne and saving lives.

Tickets are £10.

To get tickets, or for more information about this event, contact Sue Vincent on 07776 410008.

We hope people will support an event that seeks to support a vital service for Wales.

Jenny Williams

Child safety highlighted

THE Vale Council's Flying Start team is hosting an event to raise awareness of how to prevent serious accidents, as part of Child Safety Week on June 25 from 10am-3pm, on King Square, Holton Road, Barry.

Flying Start safety officer, Claire Haydon, said: "Every day, thousands of children attend A&E as a result of a preventable injury.

"This event is crucial, as we want to support parents make small steps to safety as part of their everyday lives."

Tax advice at Seniors' Shop

DO you need advice or guidance on your tax?

Age Concern Cardiff and Vale is holding a free tax advice surgery at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry on Monday, June 24, 9.30am to 11.30am.

A qualified tax adviser will be able to help and answer questions on any issues related to tax.

No appointment is needed.

Age Concern's health club

AGE Concern Cardiff and Vale is holding a free health and diet club at the Senior Health Shop Holton Road, Barry.

This is held at the Senior Health Shop monthly, where you can obtain advice and information on a healthy diet and also get a free health check.

The class has been very successful and many members have lost weight.

The next session will be held on Wednesday, June 26 from 11.15am to 12 noon.

For further information or details contact 01446 732385, or just come along on the morning.

Nearly new sale for 'Milk mates'

BARRY Milk Mates, a volunteer group supporting breastfeeding mums in and around Barry, are holding a nearly new sale 2pm – 4pm Sunday, June 23, at 10th Barry Guide Hall, Romilly Road, Barry.

Baby, toddler and other assorted items will be on sale. There will also be tea/coffee, homemade cakes and ice-cream on sale. 50p adult entry and kids are free.

If you wish to sell (£6/table) contact Lynsey on 07903 821063 or 01446 721026.

Cresta Coaches

Day Trips for 2013

Date	Day	Destination	Adult Fare	OAP/Child
22/06/2013	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon	£12.95	£11.95
06/07/2013	Saturday	Wye Valley & Chepstow	£11.00	£10.00
24/07/2013	Wednesday	Royal Welsh Show (Coach Only)	£12.00	£11.00
25/07/2013	Thursday	Cotswolds Villages - Day Trip	£11.95	£10.95
27/07/2013	Saturday	Weston Super Mare	£12.00	£11.00
03/08/2013	Saturday	Windsor	£14.00	£13.00
06/08/2013	Tuesday	Moreton in the Marsh 'Cotswolds'	£11.00	£10.00
11/08/2013	Sunday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£8.50
13/08/2013	Tuesday	West Midlands Safari (Coach Only)	£14.50	£13.50
17/08/2013	Saturday	Wells & Burnham on Sea	£11.50	£10.95
25/08/2013	Sunday	Drayton Manor (Coach Only)	£15.00	£13.00
31/08/2013	Saturday	Tenby & Saundersfoot	£10.95	£10.00
11/09/2013	Wednesday	Carmarthen Market & Tenby	£ 9.50	£ 9.00
21/09/2013	Saturday	Bicester, Oxfordshire	£14.00	£13.00
12/10/2013	Saturday	Tewksbury & Ross on Wye 'Labels'	£11.50	£10.50
26/10/2013	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon (Early Xmas Shopper)	£12.95	£11.95
23/11/2013	Saturday	Cheltenham Christmas Shopper	£11.50	£11.00
30/11/2013	Saturday	Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre	£13.75	£13.00
TBA	Await Date	Caerphilly Medieval Xmas Fayre	TBA	TBA
08/12/2013	Sunday	Bath Christmas Market	£13.75	£12.75
22/12/2013	Sunday	London Xmas Shopping & Sights	£20.00	£19.00

Minimum passenger numbers are required, therefore early reservation is essential.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR DAY TRIPS OR THE HIRE OF COACHES & MINI-BUSES CALL

Cresta Coaches

Telephone 01656 - 660366

or call at Cresta Coaches, Unit 6, Litchard Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 2AL

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RHOOSE may have a geographical claim to fame – being the most southerly point on mainland Wales – but the real story is its amazing wealth of services and businesses.

Few people know the village as well as Coun Jeff James who has represented it on the Vale Council for many years and is keen to stress the myriad advantages to living on the Heritage Coast.

"Rhoose has a great deal to offer residents and visitors alike.

"The village combines an attractive coast with easy access and a range of commercial and locally run business.

"There's a great range of shops which are open for long hours as well as a chemist, optician, post office, travel agent, butcher, estate agent, barber, hairdresser, beauty providers and a place to enjoy a coffee.

"As well as its natural beauty Rhoose now has the nature reserve at Rhoose Point and lovely walks including the coastal path.

"There are good travel options and you have the choice of first class fish and chips, excellent Indian food, Chinese food as well as a range of pubs and clubs to slake your thirst."

Coun James added: "For coast, country and community living, Rhoose has it all!"

Can this really be true? It certainly is!

Rhoose has an international airport, a train station, and Fontygary Leisure Park with state-of-the-art facilities and magnificent views across the Bristol Channel to the Somerset coast.

Great restaurants

For evenings out, people from the Vale and visiting tourists are spoilt.

The local pubs and restaurants offer great value for money and service.

At a time when many pubs and restaurants are closing local establishments such as the Ocean Lounge, the Fontygary Inn and the Six Bells continue to thrive because they offer such good value for money, combined with a friendly service.

An illustration of the go-ahead nature of local pub-restaurants is The Highwayman.

The owner Derek Gaynor explained: "Some pubs may be closing but we're expanding! We've got planning to open a new 60-seater restaurant at The Highwayman and work will begin some time after November 1.

"We've got to do this because the demand is so great – my partner Wayne Morgan does such a fantastic job with the cooking. People simply love the menus.

"The food is freshly cooked and the dishes are home-made under Wayne's supervision."

The restaurant will occupy what is currently the office space for The Highwayman's security car park business.

Derek and Wayne are also replicating their success at their pub-restaurant the Caeffatric in Bridgend which has re-opened this week with The Highwayman's celebrated lunch menu and popular over-60s menu being introduced.

Hair and beauty

Rhoose also happens to be an oasis for hair and beauty treatments with a number of salons and hairdressers that serve people not just from the village, but from across the Vale.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Glenys of Coffee Time in the centre of Rhoose always gives local people and tourists a warm welcome.

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Posh Pawz celebrates its first anniversary

Kath and Jo of Posh Pawz Salon and Spa celebrated their first anniversary this month.

LOCAL people have confidence in community support for business ventures and one company celebrating its first anniversary is Posh Pawz run by Kathryn Johnson and Jo Greenough.

Both ladies are dog lovers and noticed that there was no grooming service for the people of Rhoose in the centre of the village.

Kathryn explained: "We've got a convenient location for customers in the heart of the village with convenient parking.

"We provide a safe, secure and happy environment for dogs."

Jo added: "We do 'freshen up baths' to full spa treatments. There's also ear plucking, nail clipping and gland expressing included in a full groom."

To book an appointment, either call in, or phone Kath or Jo on 01446 710044.

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RHOOSE ... a charming village in the Vale!

RHOOSE HAS IT ALL!

Barratts Fine Meats is the popular butcher's store in the centre of the village...

ABOVE: The social club plays an important role in the local community.

LEFT: ...and Lyn of Barratts offers the customers a great, friendly service.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Bay Hair and Beauty, Sublime Hair and Beauty, Bar Buzz, Deanos Barber's Shop and Tan-y-Hyde have all developed excellent reputations.

Activities

One of the perennial complaints of some smaller communities is the lack of activities for young people – not so in Rhoose!

There are two popular Brownie packs, the Guides and Scouts, junior lifeguards, an amateur boxing club, a junior football pitch, a children's play centre, ballet sessions and a youth centre open for those aged 11 and upwards on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Continuing the young people's theme there is also Passport to Play which offers quality of care for those aged six weeks old to seven years old.

Adults are well catered for in terms of activities with the community centre, zumba dancing, a Slimming World group, a Derby and Joan Club, the WI, bingo, a Friday Club, the bowls' club and tennis courts.

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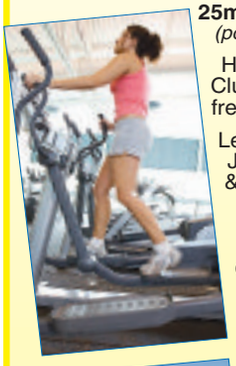

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RHOOSE ... a charming village in the Vale!

PARTNERSHIP PLAN AIMS TO IMPROVE SHOPPING AREA

ABOVE: Matthew Barratt, Coun Jeff James and Jane Williams, senior rural regeneration officer at Creative Rural Communities.

A Rhoose councillor believes that a partnership of local businesses, the Vale Council and Creative Rural Communities can improve the shopping area in the centre of the village.

Coun Jeff James told The GEM: "I have met with most of the business owners in the main shopping area of Rhoose about improving the areas in front of their shops and premises."

Creative Rural Communities has been offered a sum of money from the Tidy Towns initiative that can be used towards a 'Pride in our Villages' grant application from CRC to fund planters and benches.

Coun James explained: "Working with those owners and the Vale Council I am hoping to see an improvement in the pedestrian surfaces, but my real ambition is to see a regeneration project similar to the one in Llantwit Major."

The project in Llantwit Major transformed the shopping area along Boverton Road.

Coun James said that a crucial step in improving the environment would be to obtain estimates for upgrading the pavements, followed by drawing up a scheme that would be the basis of a bid for a grant.

Earlier this week a number of interested parties held a meeting in the village.

Coun James explained: "Working closely with Jane Williams from Creative Rural Communities and Matthew Barratt, Lester Aldred, and other business people representing Spar, Deanos, Coffee Time, Premier Store, Posh Pawz, and others, I believe there is a strong will to get things moving."

The aim of getting funding to improve the pedestrian surfaces is complicted due to the fact that parts of the pavement are owned by both businesses and the local authority.

In the past Creative Rural Communities has supported a number of projects in Rhoose, including ones at the Celtic Way Centre and Rhoose Community Centre.

A FAMILY PUB FOR ALL THE FAMILY

KERRY and Kevin Eade are now in their seventh year running the Fontygary Inn, a friendly family-run family pub and restaurant.

They are enthusiastic, and continually looking to improve the food and facilities to meet the popular demand of their regular clients and visitors to the area.

Regular entertainment nights and the introduction of new dishes and menus with more home-cooked meals than ever are just some of the improvements that the locals are enjoying.

An enclosed children's play area and sunny beer garden makes this a family friendly pub for all.

Lifeguards head abroad

FOUR members of Rhoose Lifeguards Club will be representing Wales at the Atlantic Games to be held at Viana Do Castelo, Portugal between July 15-19.

Atlantic Games team competitors Lauren, Kathryn, Sara and William.

Since its creation in Brittany in 1995, the objective of the Atlantic Games is to gather every year for a week of competition, delegations of young athletes from all the Atlantic regions of Europe. More than 14 Atlantic countries or regions take part in the Atlantic Games.

William Parker, Sara Phillips, Lauren Blake and Kathryn Gardner were chosen from a recent 'ranking' event held at Aberavon beach.

They will be competing as part of the SLSA Wales team in the under 19s surf lifesaving competition events.

Last year, Wales won the surf lifesaving section and achieved third place overall – William, Sara, Lauren and Kathryn from Rhoose Lifeguards are looking forward to the experience and competing at a European level.

In September, four of the Rhoose members will be going even further afield to compete.

Lauren Blake, Kathryn Gardner, Rhys Perry and Charles Grandfield have been selected as part of the Welsh RLSS (Royal Lifesaving Society) Commonwealth Team to compete in the RLSS Commonwealth Championships to be held in Canberra, Australia.

Being selected at this level is an excellent achievement, and Rhoose Lifeguards are very proud of William, Sara, Lauren, Kathryn, Rhys and Charles for all their hard work. The club would like to thank as always, all of the members who attended the recent rankings and the parents and helpers who help and support the club at these events.

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SENIORS EVENT SHOWCASES THE BEST OF GOLF IN BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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Winner Philip Golding acknowledges the crowd's applause.

ABOVE: The prize-giving ceremony.

LEFT: Ian Woosnam lines up a putt. He led after two rounds but, ultimately, it was a frustrating Sunday for the Welsh favourite, as Philip Golding closed with a final round 66 to win the event.

RIGHT: Spaniard Santiago Luna drives on the third hole at the Royal.

THE world-class golf on offer in Bridgend county borough has been highlighted thanks to the successful staging of this year's 'Speedy Services Wales Senior Open' at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

That's the view of BCBC Leader, Coun Mel Nott, who was among the crowds watching the three-day event last weekend.

Coun Nott said: "We were absolutely thrilled to welcome this prestigious event to Porthcawl this year and are extremely proud that the historic course has also been chosen to host the Senior Open Championship in July 2014.

"This will see even more golf fans visiting the county borough. It's an exciting time for golf in the area and occasions such as these really showcase our wonderful county to the rest of the UK and the world, which in turn benefits the local economy."

The 'Speedy Services Wales Senior Open' was won in blustery conditions by Englishman Philip Golding after home favourite Ian Woosnam had led for the first two days.

Coun Nott added: "Unfortunately the weather wasn't quite what we had ordered, but it all added up to a weekend of unpredictable and testing links golf.

"We are already looking forward to next year's Senior Open Championship, and making the most of the exposure such a high profile event will bring."

A sign of advancing years? Ian Woosnam using a long putter.

ABOVE: Maurice Bembridge, who shot a course record 64 in the 1974 US Masters – a record which stood for 12 years.

Statutory maternity pay concerns raised by Bridgend MP

THE Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon has raised concerns about the number of staff available to resolve problems over statutory maternity pay.

She tabled a number of questions after being contacted by a constituent who had been left waiting for weeks while her claim for statutory maternity pay was processed, and had struggled to speak to anyone about her case.

The answers reveal that the Statutory Payment Dispute Team based in Newcastle receives on average 2,800 calls a month, equating to 140 a day. A team of approximately 18 staff handle the calls and process cases. Since January 2012, the team has been reduced from 25 members. On average, each team member handles between seven and nine calls a day.

The constituent had been referred to the statutory payment dispute team after the company she worked for went into liquidation. She was left in financial difficulties while her case was being resolved.

The MP explained: "I was prompted to investigate this issue when a constituent, facing desperate financial problems with a new baby, contacted me. She had been left high and dry when her employer went into liquidation.

"She had tried on countless occasions to make contact with the statutory payment dispute team, but frequently found the number to be engaged. It took my caseworker three days to speak to someone about the case.

"The questions reveal that the number of staff in this team have been reduced by nearly 30 per cent over the past year, although the number of calls appears to remain constant. As well as answering calls, this team are responsible for processing cases.

"According to the figures I have been given, they resolve upwards of 400 cases a month. I am very concerned that this team is not being staffed adequately to ensure cases can be dealt with in a timely manner.

"One answer states that statutory maternity pay cases are dealt with as high priority while later saying that cases are dealt with in date order. There appears to be no mechanism for fast-tracking urgent cases.

"I also asked whether a hotline for MPs to make enquiries on behalf of constituents could be provided (as many other Government departments do), but was told there are no plans to do this.

"It is very worrying that important public services, which people in difficult circumstances rely upon to resolve urgent problems, may not be receiving adequate resources.

"I will be raising these issues with Ministers to try and avoid anyone else having to suffer financial hardship," she added.

Students hold end-of-year exhibition

Words and Pictures – Frank Shipton
Email – frankshipton@mac.com
Mobile Tel. No. – 07790 882925

THE official opening of the 'Show and Tell' exhibition by students of Bridgend College at the Cowbridge Road Campus was held on June 14.

Further and Higher Education students studying on Btec courses Art and Design, Interactive Media, Level 1 Studio 34, Level 3 Photography and Creative Media, along with the Foundation Degree courses in creative industries and design for media, as well as FDA Applied Art and Design, all exhibited.

Level 5 of the BA Hons in Photographic Practice reprised their successful Cardiff exhibition work, and Level 4 showcased their work too.

The exhibition can be seen over two floors at the Sony Theatre Building at Bridgend College and runs until tomorrow (Friday, June 21).

ABOVE: Abigail Lawrence.

Ellis Johns.

ABOVE: Beck Adorjan-Ferrie.

ABOVE: Michelle McKenna.

Frank Shipton.

Debra Allen with some of her work.

A large crowd came to the opening.

ABOVE: Maria Kucerkova.

Andrew Houghton.

Natasha Davies.

Rachel Jenkins.

ABOVE: Sandie Peters and her work.

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Summer Update...

How Cowbridge has fought off the prophets of gloom

BY PHILIP IRWIN

RECENTLY, the Vale Council commissioned a consultants' report into the main town centres in the Vale – and the section devoted to Cowbridge makes very interesting reading, because it contained one startling fact.

At a time when town centres all around the UK are widely reported to be in trouble – prompting David Cameron to send retail guru Mary Portas on a mission to tackle the problem – it seems that Cowbridge is bucking the trend.

The report compared the amount of retail floorspace in the town in 2007 and five years later in 2012, and found hardly any difference (6,570sq metre in 2007, and 6,488sq metre in 2012).

What is more, the overall floorspace devoted to business in general had increased (from 12,529 to 13,613) – and vacant space fell over that period as well.

Considering that five years ago the predictions were all doom and gloom, it is quite a remarkable achievement. Back then, out of town malls were supposed to be the future, and internet shopping was the big threat.

Now, while online shopping is still there, the malls seem less buoyant, and it is not difficult to find empty units when you stroll around one of these 'shopping cathedrals'.

How do you explain the way Cowbridge has performed? Remember that in 2008, the economic downturn really started to bite, so there has been no country-wide 'feelgood factor' to give the town a boost.

Well, the main reason has to be that Cowbridge is simply such a good place to visit.

ABOVE: The Old Hall Gardens (Photo by Mike Wilcock).

It has plenty of history, but also has the feel of a town that is lively, with people coming and going all day long and living in the present.

The main high street – almost a mile long – has a buzz about it, with shops, pubs, restaurants, cafes, banks and building societies, but then you can walk 50 yards off that main street and find peaceful and attractive areas to relax.

The GEM, of course, has its office in Cowbridge and I find that even now after 12 years in the town, I can wander off the main street and notice things – perhaps an ivy-covered building or a quiet courtyard – that I had never noticed before.

You can take a break and stroll through Poplar Park – just across the river from Waitrose – and feel a long way from the hustle and bustle of a town.

Alternatively, you walk along Church Street, where you can take a good look at Holy Cross Church, see the Old Grammar School edifice (now converted into apartments) or wander into the remarkable Physic Garden, which a few years ago was just an overgrown patch of land.

The creation of the Physic Garden, driven by a committed group of local volunteers, is just one example of how the community has been proactive in constantly refining and improving the town.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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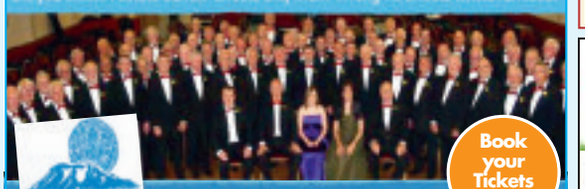

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Summer Update...

The Vale's market town

ABOVE: Cowbridge High Street in the sunshine.
ABOVE LEFT: The Physic Garden, viewed from Holy Cross Church.
(Photographs by Mike Wilcock).
BELOW: Alfresco dining in the town.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

That consultants' report, after detailing all Cowbridge's strengths, came to the conclusion that the town should be 'branded' as 'Destination Cowbridge' – and this conclusion has been welcomed by Creative Rural Communities (CRC), an arm of the Vale Council that looks to find ways to boost economic and social activity in the rural Vale.

The Cowbridge-based staff have been funding a variety of rural projects for some time now, and they felt that the report was pointing in the right direction.

Rebecca Haves of CRC said that a grant of £20,000 had recently been allocated to Cowbridge, and that this would be used to improve signage in and around the town.

She said that there was work to do to counter the impression that some people had of Cowbridge as an upmarket destination.

She said that it was important to get across that Cowbridge has a full range of shops and businesses, with something to appeal to all pockets.

CRC feel that Cowbridge can take advantage of general tourism in the area, and they have noted that visitors coming to events in Cardiff often choose to stay in the town.

She added: "One thing we have noted is that Cowbridge could do with more budget accommodation for visitors, but this is being addressed.

"Penllyn Estates are close to finishing 12 good quality bunkhouses, which would be ideal for people on walking holidays, for instance.

"There would, of course, be a benefit to the town, because guests there would go out on walks during the day, and then stroll into Cowbridge in the evening to eat and relax."

The chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, told The GEM that his members had done well in what were clearly difficult times.

He said an active chamber of trade, working together to keep people coming to the town had been an important factor, with events such as the Reindeer Parade a major element.

He said that Caroline Rich of Top Shop had recently given a talk to the chamber, and this had helped focus traders' views on future activities.

At a time when town centres are more valued than ever – because so many are under threat – Cowbridge has kept the faith and is showing how it should be done.

Shopping is more than just spending money. It offers a chance to reconnect with life as it should be, and you can keep a community alive at the same time.

After all, nobody is ever going to get sentimental about a shopping mall.

SEE MORE ON COWBRIDGE ON PAGE 26

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity opera evening for healthier hearts

SINGERS from the Welsh National Opera will be in Cowbridge soon, raising money for a heart charity.

Entitled 'Puccini and Prosecco' – the evening offers a glass of prosecco on arrival, followed by an Italian themed dinner, with artists from Welsh National Opera serenading guests during the evening.

The Bear Hotel Cowbridge, hosts the event on Monday, July 1, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Tickets are £29.50 each and proceeds go to 'Welsh Hearts', which supplies defibrillators and supports research into hearth conditions and cardiomyopathy.

To book, contact The Bear Hotel on 01446 774814, Sharon Owen on 07730 944700 or email fundraising@welsh hearts.org

Town shops show support to charity

BUSINESSES in Cowbridge have joined the fight against homelessness by supporting the charity Llamau in shops along the high street.

Shops taking part by keeping collection tins in-store include, Xantippe, Coco Plum, Jonlan, Visage and The Shop.

Frances Beecher, the chief executive of Llamau, said: "By highlighting the issues of many young people facing homelessness, these businesses are not only raising awareness of the problem within the community, but are able to reach out directly to the young people themselves with the services we can offer them."

Look out for the red Llamau collection tins in shops in Cowbridge.

For more information about Llamau, *visit www.llamau.org.uk*

School fundraiser

WAITROSE in Cowbridge is hosting a cheese and wine evening to raise funds for Cowbridge Comprehensive School on Thursday, July 11, 6.30pm–8.30pm.

Tickets (£5) are available from Donna White at the school, on 01446 772311 or dwhite@cowbridgecomprehensiveschool.co.uk

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COWBRIDGE

Summer Update...

IT'S SHOWTIME FOR COWBRIDGE GROUP

LEFT: Stagecoach students will be performing in Barry next month.

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts is celebrating 25 years in children's performing arts education.

To mark the occasion, over 250 children from Stagecoach Cowbridge and Bridgend will perform at the Memo Arts Centre, Barry, on Sunday, July 14.

Join them for an exciting evening of musical theatre from the silver screen to modern day, from the West End to Broadway!

Tickets are available from the theatre box office on 01446 738622. Stagecoach is enrolling now for weekly classes and summer holiday workshops. Call Helene Reynolds on 01446 781454 for more information.

The sky is the limit for local artist Sue

Sue McDonagh with one of her portraits.

A COWBRIDGE-BASED artist, Sue McDonagh, is hoping that she will make the final cut in a new Sky Arts reality show, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

The show is looking to find a new star in the world of portrait painting – and the prize is a £10,000 commission to paint the best-selling novelist, Hilary Mantel.

An original entry of 2,000 has already been cut to 84 – so Sue is delighted to have made it this far. The next step is to join 20 other hopefuls at City Hall, Cardiff, on July 7 at one of four regional heats.

These will be filmed, and the next stop could then be the final, where the selected hopefuls will be taken to various locations and given a series of tests – before arriving at a winner.

Sue said: "To get to this stage, I had to send in images of three portraits, and one had to be a self-portrait. I didn't much enjoy doing that one!

"The Cardiff heat lasts 12 hours, but the crux is a four-hour session where we have to do a portrait starting from scratch.

"We have been told that three sitters will be there – all well known – and I will be allocated one."

Doing a portrait on a strict timescale is a new experience for Sue. She said: "I normally take a series of photographs and sketches, then take my time over the finished product. If I don't like the way it is going, I can start again."

To prepare, friends are being lined up for a four-hour sitting to hone her technique. She said: "It would be great to make the final. We have been promised that we will be taken to glamorous locations as the final progresses, and we will also have the chance to work with an experienced mentor."

The Hilary Mantel commission, of course, would be the star prize, and that portrait will be hung in the National Gallery as well.

Sue has been based in the Old Wool Barn in Cowbridge for 20 years now, and has never regretted her move to the Vale. However, it is a big career change for someone who was a police officer in Essex. Sue said: "I had been in the police for just a year when I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

"It was a huge shock and I was lucky that it was diagnosed so early. During my recuperation I started painting and then, after going back to the police for a short time after I recovered, I decided to move to the Vale and pursue a career as an artist."

She moved to Llantwit Major and regards it as a great decision. Sue's van, painted up to highlight her artistic endeavours, is a regular sight at events in the Vale.

She said: "The recent Cowbridge May Fayre was fantastic. I had to go back to the Wool Barn to replenish my stocks."

So, July 7 in City Hall will be a big day for Sue. If all goes well, she could be making her TV debut when the series is broadcast on Sky Arts in the autumn!

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Porthcawl Conservatives call for level playing field over windfarm planning

Welsh Secretary David Jones with Coun Ken Watts and fellow Conservatives

WELSH Secretary David Jones claimed in a visit to Bridgend on Monday that controversial plans to build two massive wind turbines overlooking Porthcawl would probably be refused in England, where planning policy has just been changed.

Mr Jones, who was attending a Conservative party event, said that new planning policy for the smaller wind farm developments in England now gave greater weight to the strength of public opinion when decisions were being taken.

He went on: "In Wales, there is an effective presumption in favour of wind farm developments. I am urging the Welsh Government to follow the UK government's lead on future wind farm developments."

Mr Jones said that it was likely that the proposed wind turbines at Newton Down would be rejected using the new English guidance because of the strength of local feeling against it.

He went on: "We need the Welsh Government to adopt the new policy, so there is less divergence on this between the two countries. We need a more level playing field."

Coun Ken Watts of Newton, who was one of those who opposed the wind farm plan, said he was very frustrated to hear that in England the views of the local population would have been taken into account when the decision was made.

He said: "There was tremendous opposition both from the community, with a 2,000 strong petition, and from Bridgend County Borough Council.

"The development control committee voted unanimously to reject the plans, but on appeal, the development was allowed by a planning inspector.

"It is wrong that the strongly expressed views of local people through the petition and letters of objection, and also through their elected councillors, have simply been ignored."

PORTHCAWL'S BEST WELSH ELVIS RETAINS HIS TITLE

Photos by Juliet Eden at *www.julieteden.com*

Elvis, before he left the building.

Darren 'Graceland' Jones – the victor.

THIS year's 'Best Welsh Elvis' competition, part of the Porthcawl Elvis Festival, took place recently at The Hi Tide, Porthcawl, and was won by Darren 'Graceland' Jones.

Darren, 41 from Cwmbran had previously won the title in 2012 and last winter became an internet hit around the world when starring in Torfaen Council's Youtube film 'In The Depot.'

He will receive his award and appear at The Elvies award show, the highlight of the Porthcawl Elvis Festival in September (*www.elvies.co.uk*).

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the Porthcawl Elvis Festival is now the largest event of its kind in the world with an estimated 31,000 attending last year.

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Family Notices

RAFTI
Christina (Christalla)

With great sadness on 11th June at the University Hospital of Wales, Christina passed away, well known of The Royal Cafe, Barry Island. Devoted wife of the late Sotirios George Rafti, beloved mum of Despoulla, George, Erinoulla and Costa, cherished Yiayia of Alessandra and Christiana.

Christina will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at the Greek Orthodox Church, Bute Street, Cardiff on Monday 24th June at 12.00pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home. Enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service - 01446 407962.

WHITE
Arthur Henry

Suddenly at Llandough Hospital on June 4th, after a short illness, Arthur aged 80 years. Will be sadly missed by his family and friends both here in the UK and abroad.

Funeral Service at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Thursday, 27th June at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Floral Tributes to be sent to the Funeral Home, no lilies please by request. All enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis@The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

BREWER
Alfred (Alfie)

The family of the late Alfred (Alfie) wish to sincerely thank everyone who attended his recent funeral. It was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Reverend Melanie Prince for conducting a lovely service and W James & Sons, Rhoose for their professional service. Many thanks also for the messages of sympathy and cards received.

HOPKIN RVM
David Thomas

(Formerly of Shop Farm, St Brides Major)

Passed away peacefully on 12th June, David, adored husband of Barbara, loving father to Sharon and Tony, John and Myfanwy, Dyfrig and Julie, Mair and Colin. Devoted gramps to his eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren, he will be sadly missed.

Funeral Service at St Bridget's Church, St Brides Major on Thursday, 20th June at 2pm, followed by interment. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Arthritis Research UK.

LEWIS
Douglas John

After a short illness, on June 14 at his home in Llantwit Major, surrounded by his family, Doug, beloved husband, father and gramp.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral strictly private.

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PARKER
Nicholas Simon (Nick)

Peacefully on 13th June at home, Guys Road, Barry, Nicholas Simon (Nick) aged 59 years, previously proprietor of PEE GEE Motor Bike Shop, Caerphilly. Dearly loved husband of Jaci, much loved dad of Anthony, dearest brother of Jane and Sarah.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the Funeral on Monday, 24th June. Funeral Service in the Chapel at 11.30am, afterwards cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 12.45pm. Family flowers only, if desired, donations may be handed to the Funeral Director after the funeral for Cancer Care Marie Curie, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

Pemberton
Warwick

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern: I, **Velauthapillai Ravidhas** do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for the grant of a **Premises Licence** at **Bargain Booze, Cardiff Road, Cadoxton, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 2QW and previously known as 'Barry Motors'.**

The application is for retail sale of alcohol during 7am until 11pm Monday to Saturday, and 8am until 10.30pm on Sundays.

Any person wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days from and including the date of this notice (as below). Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of this application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address during normal office hours.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application - the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Dated: 20 June 2013

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John leads ramblers along trail

ON Sunday, June 23, John Moore will be leading the first Nonagenarian Walk to be included in a Vale Ramblers programme.

John Moore.

We meet in Cowbridge Town Hall Car Park and at 9am will move on to the car park adjacent to the theatre and the end of the canal in Brecon for about 10am. There is a car park charge of 50p for up to 6 hours.

John has chosen a route that follows the Taff Trail for approximately 3.5 miles along the canal tow path as far as Stonehouse Bridge.

It then takes the road for about half a mile in to Llanfynachon, the foot path across the fields past Abercynrig Mill, through Gloscoed Woods, along the bank of the River Usk, past Christ College and over the bridge in to Brecon.

At 7.5 miles and with only 300 feet or so of climbing (and no styles) this is an easy but interesting walk. Both the shorter views along the canal and the river and the longer views of the Brecons are lovely.

If you intend to go straight to the start of the walk in Brecon will you please let either John Moore (01446 773076/07845 377709) or Bill Fawcett (01446 773405/07831 611524) know so that we can make sure that we meet up.

JM

New faces at law firm

G & W partners Anthony Taylor and Nigel Daniel at the new Cowbridge office

THE Cowbridge and Bridgend solicitors, Gaskell & Walker are bucking the economic trend and growing – both in staff numbers and in office accommodation.

Having recently moved their Cowbridge operations to larger offices above Nat West Bank on Westgate, they have recruited employment law expert Nigel Daniel and Kathryn Thompson, a probate, trusts and wills specialist.

The company was established in Cowbridge over 100 years ago.

Maesteg-born Nigel was educated in Cowbridge Boys Grammar School. He will head the firm's employment law department and has 20 years' experience in the legal sector. He has acted for members of all the main trades unions in the UK.

Originally from the Vale, Kathryn Thompson has joined from Co-operative Legal services in Bristol.

She said: "Returning to my home patch makes the prospect of reconnecting with the area and its people even more exciting for me."

Gaskell & Walker partner, Gwyn Davies said: "We are very excited at the prospect of bringing an increased level of specialist expertise to clients of the firm."

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'THREE CHEERS FOR SPORT!'

Asda Active Sports Day at Bridgend College

John's death is mourned

WELSH horse racing is mourning the death of race horse owner and company chairman John Ayres, who has died after a courageous battle with cancer.

John, an unassuming man, who was co-founder and chairman of Finest Brands International, Champion Manufacturing Ltd and John Ayres Import/Export, owned a number of point-to-pointers over the years and enthusiasts in the Vale will remember his *Majetta Crescent*, a prolific winner between-the-flags and under rules, and *Warren Boy*, which was trained by his long-time friend, former amateur rider Tim Jones.

Perhaps the best horse he owned under rules was *Victory Gunner*, who won several regional 'Grand''Nationals' and who was still winning races at the age of 15.

John, who also had a saddlery shop in the Rumney area of Cardiff, leaves behind a widow Bridget and two daughters, Sarah Jane and Charlotte.

John was still working at his Coedkernew, Newport, racing stables up until a day or two before his death, and just hours before he died was reading the Racing Post.

John's wishes was that his memorial service should be at his local and favourite racecourse – Chepstow – and it will take place there on June 21 at 1.30pm. It should be a fitting tribute to a much loved and respected man whose premature death (he was just 60) will be a big loss to the equestrian industry and to jump racing.

Messages of condolence to the family can be sent to Fern Morgan, Chepstow Racecourse, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 6BE or e-mail *fmorgan@chepstow-racecourse.co.uk*

BRIAN LEE

BRIDGEND College has hosted an Asda Active Sports Day, with 90 schoolchildren from two primary schools in Bridgend county borough taking part.

The event, run in conjunction with Sports Leaders UK, gave the youngsters an opportunity to get active in a fun and friendly environment, with Asda colleagues on hand to provide free, healthy refreshments throughout the day.

The day saw great sporting action take place, with the two schools competing against each other in athletics, basketball, football, netball and rounders.

Paul Adams, Head of Department for Sport, Bridgend College: "It's been great to work with Asda and Sports Leaders to put on such a great day for local schoolchildren. The sports leaders are a great example of how best to give something back to the community, and we're very privileged that one of our sports tutors, Claire Dodd, is not only closely involved with Sports Leaders UK, but also brings their values to her work in Bridgend College."

The event was also attended by athletes Connor Ireland, Tasia Stephens and Jac Palmer, who are being supported by Asda in 2013 as part of a programme run in partnership with the charity SportsAid to help the next generation of sporting talent.

A good week for Llantwit's bowlers

LLANTWIT MAJOR bowlers continued their winning run in the Munro Cup with a convincing win against Barry Central by 89-44 shots.

Graham Jones' rink were behind until the eighth end, where a score of four took them into the lead; Llantwit then scored on eight ends consecutively to win by eight shots.

Steve Booker's rink had a slow start but increased their momentum, scoring heavily on the latter part of the match to win by 24 shots.

Danny Ahearne's rink had a frustrating game, holding the lead until the 11th end. Some outrageous wicks on a few ends by Central deprived Llantwit of a six and a four shot advantage; Central finished well, taking the last three ends to win by five shots.

Richard George's rink did well with the skip making his debut in that position for the first team. On the losing end until the ninth end, a four on the 10th end gave them the lead and they then upped their game with some good scoring ends to finish with a 15 shot win - well done.

Rink scores: GJ 22-11, SB 33-9, DA 8-13, RG 26-11.

JY

LAST Thursday, Llantwit Major lady bowlers travelled to Cowbridge B.C. for a league match.

The rinks were: Edna Hardie, Pat Cook, May Davies and Etta Gray 15 -13; Peggy Pike, Ann Mutlow and Margaret Morgan 7 - 21; Liz Crouch, Eryl Nicholls, Julie Molloy and Carol Willmot 10-20.

KJ

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GEM sport

PENYBONT GYMNASTS STAR IN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Penybont gymnastic squad.

PENYBONT Acrobatic Gymnastics Squad starred at the recent Geneva International Acrobatic Championships (GIAC).

Around 10 countries took part, including Switzerland, South Africa, Russia and fellow UK clubs, but the local squad, 27 strong, took home six gold, six silver and six bronze medals – a fantastic achievement for their first club international competition.

A spokeswoman reported: "The coaching team were delighted with each and every performance and very proud of their attitudes and behaviour throughout the four-day trip.

"Thank you to all coaches, gymnasts, parents and organisers for making this such a memorable trip. It's back to the fundraising drawing board for the squad now as the club seek to find their next adventure!"

Charity golf day raises £5,000 for charities

Neil Boobyer and his team.

A STAGGERING £5,000 was raised at a recent golf fundraising day organised by the NFU Cymru Bridgend office, at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

The money was divided equally between the Mount Pleasant Riding for the Disabled organisation, based locally to the Bridgend agency, and NFU Cymru's 2013 nominated charity, the Multiple Sclerosis Society Cymru.

Organised by Bridgend NFU Cymru group secretaries Dave Harris and Julian Kelly, the competition attracted 136 competitors, in teams of four, all attempting to win some of the excellent prizes on offer.

Expressing his appreciation to all who supported the event, Dave Harris, said: "We are very grateful to everyone who got involved, the numerous sponsors, the staff and managers at the Grove Golf Club and all the competitors.

"This has become a regular feature for both local golfers and businesses, due to the great atmosphere, great prizes, and a very well-run day at an obliging Golf Club.

"We had an excellent day while raising much-needed funds for two worthy charities."

A prize presentation was held in the evening with the winners of the men's team prize, which is always hotly contested, going to Celtic Manor All Stars captained by Rhydian Harris, with Principality Plastics as the runners-up, and third place going to Boobyer's Boys.

T McC

Young cricketers keep up their successful run

BRIDGEND TOWN under-12s stretched their winning streak to four games at home to Briton Ferry Town.

Bridgend Town won the toss and elected to bat. The Bridgend batsman found runs hard to come by but only lost three wickets in amassing a total of 252 (pairs format), O Lewis (7), C Hart (6) and J Hayes (5) were the major contributors.

With the game played in excellent spirit, the experienced Bridgend attack proved too strong for Briton Ferry Town, with wickets falling at regular intervals.

The wickets were taken by A Dalton (2), C Hart (2), A Abbass, J Hayes, B Jones, J Biebrach, O Johns and O Lewis.

Bridgend keeper H Evans was in top form, taking a catch and three stumpings, as Briton Ferry reached a net score of 225 off their 20 overs, resulting in a Bridgend Town win by 27 runs.

The next fixture, weather permitting is away to local rivals Tondu in what is always an entertaining game.

Team: A Abbass, J Biebrach, A Dalton, H Evans (w/k), C Hart, J Hayes, O Johns, B Jones (captain), O Lewis, K Metha.

JH

Youth bring season to close

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC youth held their presentation evening recently to bring the season to a close.

The main recipients of awards were Lloyd Wilson (player of the year), Lewis Down, who received the captain's award, and there was a special presentation to Chris Price, who received his Boys Club of Wales under-19s cap. The awards were presented by the senior club captain, Simon Mustoe.

There was one other award, which was for clubman of the year, which went to Lewis Taylor.

MP

Chris Price.

Lewis Down

Lewis Taylor.

Lloyd Wilson.

PYLE AND KENFIG GOLF CLUB NEWS

THE weather was set fair, though windy, proving a challenge for competitors playing in Pyle and Kenfig's club championship qualifier weekend on May 18 and 19.

The top 15 combined gross scores were achieved by: J Reed, C Evans, I Booth, P Derham, J Williams, R Peet, M Peet, D James (club captain), D Phillips, P Jones, J Savile, L Thompson, C Slocombe, D Jones and C Rowe, who all qualified for the championship, along with current club champion, Carwyn Hammond.

The next best 16 combined scores qualified for the Sker Salver, and the successful competitors were: M Sullivan, A Williams, M Lethbridge, S Brown, J Stone, S Griffiths, R Adams T Furneaux, R Booth, L Jones, T Prydie, T Flint, L Mcnally, J Jones, I Howell and J David - good luck to all!

Men's competition results were as follows: Country Members' Cup winner **S Newton;** White Bowl winner J Templar; Billa David Cup winner G Spensley.

Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club welcomes all golfers and the course is open all year round; contact www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk or secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk.

JM

Be a 'Superstar'

SUPERSTARS have teamed up with Porthcawl Town Athletic FC to lay on two weeks of summer football fun at Locks Lane.

The weeks will be headed up by head coach Curtis Ivin, supported by a team of SuperStars coaches, all of whom will be FA/UEFA qualified, first aid, child protection trained and CRB enhanced; these take place bewteen July 29 and August 2 and August 12-16.

For more information call 0845 241 3682 or speak to Curtis on 07772 297944.

CI